



MICHELLE KINNEY, LLB

CURRICULUM VITAE

EDUCATION, ACCREDITATION AND PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIPS

- ◆ LLB, University of Victoria Law, May 2006
- ◆ Brown Henderson Family Law, Articles, Victoria BC, May 2006-May 2007
- ◆ Called to the Bar of British Columbia in June 2007
- ◆ Accreditation by BC Law Society as Family Law Mediator 2014
- ◆ Accreditation BC Law Society as Family Arbitrator 2021
- ◆ Member in good standing with Nunavut Law Society, British Columbia Law Society, previous Co-chair of Nunavut CBA Family Section

RELEVANT PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

CURRENT: Michelle Kinney Law

- ◆ Sole practitioner specializing in fertility law and building intentional families. Consultant on law family law and family violence law reform.

SEPT 2020- FEB 2022: Legal Counsel, Government of Nunavut, Legal and Constitutional Law Division and Policy and Planning Division, Department of Justice

- ◆ Legal advice to all departments in government, duty to consult research, treaty negotiation and drafting, Nunavut Impact Review Board (Environment) participation, Legal Services Board government representative, Representative for Children and Youth engagement and protocol development, representative on Federal-Provincial-Territorial groups, Government of Nunavut lawyer on a coroner's inquest, lead for family violence and family law review including community consultations to develop proposals for family justice law reform for government.

2014- 2020: Associate Lawyer, Cassels Murray Family & Estates, Victoria BC

- ◆ Self-employed as part of a 4-lawyer firm. Specialize in family law and fertility law, mediation, out-of-court dispute resolution, and litigation in Provincial and Supreme Court.

2015 TO PRESENT: Fertility Law BC

- ◆ Founding member of lawyers practicing fertility law to develop resources and best practices.

2016: Adjunct Professor at University of British Columbia Allard Law School

- ◆ Taught the 300 level Family Law course for a semester.



2008-2014: Legal Counsel, Civil Law Policy Office, Ministry of Justice, BC Government

- ◆ **Role:** to assist and support government in civil law reform to further goals and interests, including complex policy development with competing interests, legal, social science and jurisdictional research, strategic decision-making and problem-solving, stakeholder engagement and consultations, drafting, development and implementation of legislation, court rules and regulations, brief and support the Attorney General in legislative approval and committee process.
- ◆ **Family Law Act Reform:** 6 years as an integral team member in the sweeping comprehensive reform of the family law. Government spokesperson.
 - *Exemplary Service Team Award (2012)* awarded by the Attorney General to the Family Law Team for Family Law Act reform project.
- ◆ **Representative for Children and Youth Act:** Assist in identifying and implementing changes while working with stakeholders and government.
- ◆ **Federal Family Homes On Reserves and Matrimonial Interests or Rights Act:** Work with Aboriginal organizations and government to implement federal initiative.
- ◆ **Family Violence:** Designate on all civil family violence matters. Government representative in internal and external stakeholder groups, including with police, Crown, victim services and anti-violence organizations.
- ◆ **Co-chair of Federal-Provincial-Territorial Working Group on Family Violence, 2011-2014.** Co-drafter of Report: *“Making the Links in Family Violence Cases: Collaboration among Family, Child Protection and Criminal Justice Systems”*.

2007-2008: A/Manager, Legal Services Section & Legislation and Regulations, Ministry of Employment and Income Assistance, BC Government

- ◆ Manage human rights and Ombudsman complaints, civil litigation and judicial reviews. Brief ADMs, DM and Ministers; provide legal support to committees. Coordinate legislative development, regulatory change and draft supporting materials for Minister and Cabinet. Develop Ministry/corporate policy and procedures and engage stakeholders.

2006: Research Assistant to Assess Federal Program’s Effectiveness on Indigenous Communities -University of Saskatchewan

- ◆ After research, data analysis and consultations with stakeholders, compiled report for the federal government to assess the Essential Skills Project’s effectiveness in Indigenous communities and made recommendations for improvement.

2001-2006 Representative on Board of Governors / University of Victoria Student Society (UVSS) and UVSS Resource Coordinator

- ◆ Elected for five consecutive terms by the student body to represent student interests: 2 years as Executive of Student Society, including as media spokesperson 3 years on the University’s Board of Governors including Operations, Hiring, and Finance committees. During this time, also employed as UVSS Resource Coordinator to manage and direct annually elected UVSS Board of Directors; advised on Robert’s Rules of Order, Society bylaws, policy, media relations, supervised staff.



LEGAL WRITING CONTRACTS

2014- 2020: Contractor, Draft Various Legal Resources

- ◆ **LexisNexis Practice Advisor (2018- 2020):** Draft legal resource manual for lawyers on parenting matters and court precedents
- ◆ **BC Continuing Legal Education Family Law Agreements Manual (2017- 2020):** Draft manual for lawyers on parenting matters with precedents
- ◆ **BC Legal Services Society, Supreme Court Self-Help Resources Project: 2014-2015:** Develop public legal resources and sample court materials, to assist self-represented family law litigants in Supreme Court.
- ◆ **Public education materials on the Family Law Act,** including: drafting Ministry website content and public education materials, policy and consultation papers, legal review of organizations training including police, victim services, Crown.

SPEAKING ENGAGEMENTS/ PRESENTATIONS

- ◆ **Fertility Law, including:**
 - Fertility Matters Canada: remote presentation for clients across Canada (2020)
 - **American Bar Association Family Law Fall Conference: Speaking for the Commonwealth Countries on Assisted Reproduction Law (2016)**
 - *Baby Making: Assisted Reproduction Law Conference:* facilitator, organizer, presenter (2015) BC Continuing Legal Education
- ◆ **Nunavut:**
 - Canadian Bar Association Nunavut: The new Divorce Act 2021
 - Fertility and Family Law: guest speaker at the Nunavut Law School
- ◆ **National Family Law Program Presenter:**
 - Child support and children (2018)
 - *Family Violence: Collaboration between Civil and Criminal Systems* with retired Honourable Donna Martinson (2014)
- ◆ **BC Continuing Legal Education (CLE) Presenter/ Contributor, including:**
 - *Good Lawyering for Bad Parents:* relocation (2018)
 - *Family Law Act for Estate Practitioners* 2014
 - “Family Law Act: Everything You Ever Wanted to Know” (2013- 3 cities)
 - *Family Violence* panel with the Honourable Donna Martinson
 - *Q&A with Government on the Family Law Act* (gov’t rep)
 - *Family Law Act Transition Guide:* Contributor as gov’t
- ◆ **University of Victoria Faculty of Law:** repeat guest speaker in Family & Contract Law, panellist at *Diversity Session* (2014); panelist at *Women in Law* (2018)
- ◆ **Centre for Asia-Pacific Initiatives:** Thai Judges training on family law (2019)
- ◆ Numerous other training/education sessions on family law, family violence, assisted reproduction and law reform including to BC Arbitration and Mediation Institute; Canada Bar Association Sections; Crown Counsel; Victoria Pride, Victoria doctors and midwives, and Nunavut family lawyers regarding the upcoming Divorce Act changes

