

## **Provincial Court Family Rules – Explained BC Courthouse Libraries & LABC**

Biographies - panelists

June 24, 2022

### ***The Honourable Judge Kathryn J. Ferriss, Provincial Court of British Columbia, Surrey***

The Honourable Judge Kathryn J. Ferriss was called to the BC bar in 1987 after graduating from UBC Law School in 1986. After a very brief stint as a solicitor, she went on to practice family law. She was counsel with the Family Maintenance Enforcement Program and family staff lawyer with Legal Aid BC for a number of years.

In 2002, she was hired by LABC to set up the Family Duty Counsel office at Robson Square. She acted as a consultant regarding Family Duty Counsel and Advice Lawyer programs throughout the province and helped develop the Parents Legal Centre prototype at Robson Square. She briefly held the position of Manager, Family Law Services, before being appointed to the Provincial Court in Surrey in July 2015.

She authored the CLEBC *Family Practice Manual* chapter on Provincial Court Practice for ten years prior to her appointment. She is the current chair of the Provincial Court's Family Law Committee.

### ***Kathleen Kendall, QC, Lead Family Duty Counsel, Kamloops***

Kathy was called to the Bar in 1984 and joined Legal Aid in Kamloops in 1985. She served as staff lawyer and later managing lawyer until 2010, practicing administrative, family and child protection law. Since 2010 she has been a sole practitioner, acting as lead Family Duty counsel for the Kamloops area. She was designated Queen's Counsel in 2020.

Kathy has taught at TRU law school and volunteered extensively with many access to justice and community organizations, both locally and internationally. She currently serves on the Board of Governors of the Law Foundation and Thompson Rivers University. She loves travelling with her daughter, being on the water, cooking, reading and hanging out with her dog Murphy.

### ***Susan Loney, Co-Lead Family Duty Counsel, Victoria***

Susan is one of the Co-Lead Family Duty Counsel lawyers in Victoria, where she has been practicing mainly family law since she was called to the bar in 1993. She has been a regular in Provincial Court for many years, and found herself on the front lines working with the new rules since they were prototyped in Victoria in 2019.

Born and raised in Victoria, she studied English Lit for her B.A. and later Law, both at UVic. When not perusing the new Rules and Forms, she likes to work in her garden, walk her dog, play hockey, tell tall tales and daydream about returning to Ireland in the very near future.

***Olga Volpe, Manager, Family Law Services, LABC***

Olga was called in BC in 1989. Olga has provided legal aid throughout her career, starting with a general practice that focused on family law in Metro Vancouver until 1997 when she became a staff family lawyer. From 2002 to 2014, as Lead Family Duty Counsel, Olga implemented and provided Family Duty Counsel services at the Surrey Courthouse location. Olga was a consultant for the creation of LABC's Parents Legal Centres, expanded Family LawLINE, and Victoria Expanded Family Duty Counsel services. In 2015, Olga became LABC's Manager, Family Law Services, where she is responsible for family and child protection advice and representation services.

Olga has been a presenter for LABC, CLE, CBABC, LSBC Professional Legal Training Program, Provincial Court Judges Education Conference, BC Courthouse Libraries, Justice Education and others.

Born and raised in Vancouver, Olga enjoys running and spending time outdoors locally, travelling in BC and further afield, and sharing it all with a good dose of laughter, food and wine with friends and family.