

A message from our friend in British Columbia, Ian Aikenhead, the director of the B.C. LAP:

I am sure that all of you will be interested to read the attached message from the Chief Judge of British Columbia, advising that our friend, Russ MacKay, has been appointed a Provincial Court Judge.

Many of you know Russ' story, which is a matter of public record. Due to his alcoholism he was removed from the profession. In British Columbia, almost no one has ever come back.

After being involved in the founding of the British Columbia LAP, and acting as its first Executive Director, Russ was allowed back into the profession.

13 years later, he attains one of the highest distinctions of our profession, by being appointed a Provincial Court Judge.

These kinds of things just don't happen. They are impossible.

We are all overjoyed, and what is even more heartwarming, is that his appointment is being met with universal acclaim. There is no controversy attached to it whatsoever.

Another example of the miracle of the Lawyers' Assistance Programs, and the progress we have made in our profession due to the hard work of people like Russ, and all of you.

This is a happy day. Please pass this on to anyone else that you might know who knows Russ.

Regards,

Ian

From: Stansfield, Hugh
Sent: February 8, 2008 1:19 PM
To: @All Provincial Judiciary
Subject: Appointment of New Provincial Court Judge Russell MacKay

It is my distinct pleasure and privilege to announce that the Lieutenant Governor in Council has signed the Order in Council appointing Russell MacKay a judge of the Provincial Court of British Columbia, effective February 22, 2008.

Judge MacKay will be assigned to South Fraser District.

Judge MacKay obtained his law degree from the University of British Columbia in 1982 and was called to the Bar in 1983. He started his legal career as a sole practitioner, then joined Dallas, Kinney & Co. from 1984 to 1987,

following which he did not practice until 1994 when he joined the Vancouver firm of Vertlieb, Anderson. In 2004 he joined the Granville Law Group.

Like many other judges of our Court, as a lawyer Judge MacKay worked tirelessly on behalf of other members of the profession. He served as Executive Director of the Legal Assistance Programme, Executive member of the Trial Lawyers' Association from 1999, and Chair of the TLABC Criminal Defence Litigation Group from 2001. He has been a Board member of the Pacifica Treatment Centre, International Lawyers in AA and Ruby Slippers Theatre Co.

Judge MacKay will be sworn in on February 22, 2008 at the Office of the Chief Judge. A notice for the welcoming ceremony will follow shortly.

I know you will join me in applauding the appointment of Judge MacKay and in welcoming him to the Provincial Court of BC.

Hugh C. Stansfield
Chief Judge