



Approved Benchers Public Minutes

Five Hundred Twenty Fifth Meeting of the Benchers of the Law
Society of Alberta (Law Society)

November 27, 2025

In person in Calgary, AB and by videoconference

ATTENDANCE

Benchers Stacy Petriuk, KC, President
Bud Melnyk, KC, President-Elect
A. Danielle Bourgeois
Arman Chak, KC (videoconference)
Stephanie Dobson (videoconference)
Adam Drew
John Evans, KC
Kene Ilochonwu, KC
Levonne Louie
Jim Lutz, KC
Scott Matheson
Kelsey Meyer
Sharilyn Nagina, KC
Afshan Naveed
Mary Ellen Neilson
Sandra Petersson, KC
Ali Rakka
Erin Runnalls, KC
Ron Sorokin, KC
Nicole Stewart
Dr. Riad Tarrabain (videoconference)
David Tupper
Maira Váně, KC
Grant Vogeli, KC



ATTENDANCE

Executive Leadership Team	Elizabeth Osler, KC, CEO and Executive Director Cori Ghitler, KC, Deputy Executive Director and Director, Policy and Education Sarah Klein, General Counsel Nadine Meade, Chief Financial Officer Kendall Moholitny, Director, Regulation and Professionalism Andrew Norton, Chief Information Officer and Director, Business Operations
Staff	Nancy Bains, Tribunal Counsel & Privacy Officer Reed Bjerkseth, Support Staff, Business Technology (in person) Colleen Brown, Manager, Communications and Stakeholder Engagement (In person) Christal Chapman, Equity, Diversity and Inclusion Counsel Jennifer Freund, Policy & Governance Counsel Sharon Heine, Senior Manager, Regulation Calvin McCarron, Support Staff, Business Technology (in person) Andrew McGrath, Support Staff, Business Technology (in person) Noria Neuhart, Policy Counsel Christine Schreuder, Supervisor, Governance (in person) Karly Walker, Coordinator, Governance (in person)
Guests	Robert Bassett, Canadian Bar Association (CBA), Alberta Loraine Champion, KC, Executive Director, Alberta Lawyers' Assistance Society Carsten Jensen, KC, Law Society of Alberta representative to the Federation of Law Societies of Canada (in person) Christine Laing, Executive Director, Pro Bono Law Alberta Liza Worthington, CEO, Canadian Centre for Professional Legal Education

Secretary's Note: All Benchers and Executive Leadership Team attendees were in person unless otherwise stated. All staff and guests attended via videoconference unless otherwise stated. The arrival or departure of Benchers during the meeting are recorded in the body of these minutes.

1. Call to Order and Land Acknowledgment

Ms. Petriuk called the public meeting to order at 1:00 p.m. and Mr. Ilochonwu provided a Land Acknowledgment.



2. Opening Remarks from the President – New Bencher Introductions

Ms. Petriuk made introductory remarks in warm welcome to newly appointed Bencher John Evans, KC, and public representative Benchers Ali Rakka and Dr. Riad Tarrabain. She then recognized the significant contributions of Glen Buick and Louise Wasylenko, who both served as public representative Benchers.

Ms. Petriuk extended a fond farewell to Cori Ghitter, KC, recognizing her contributions, foresight, and leadership in advancing strategic projects since she joined the Law Society in 2014 and over the seven years she served as Deputy Executive Director. She wished Ms. Ghitter well in her endeavors.

3. Adoption of the Agenda

The agenda was circulated with the materials prior to the meeting and adopted as proposed.

4. Election of the President-Elect and the Executive Committee

Documentation for this item was circulated with the materials prior to the meeting. Ms. Petriuk announced that Mr. Ilochonwu, KC, and Mr. Lutz, KC, put their names forward as candidates for President-Elect.

Ms. Petriuk read the election procedures and explained how the elections would be conducted anonymously through an electronic survey and verified. She called for nominations from the floor for President-Elect in accordance with Rule 27(1) of the Rules of the Law Society. There were no nominations from the floor, and the nominations were declared closed. Mr. Ilochonwu and Mr. Lutz provided remarks.

Mr. Vogeli arrived at 1:14 p.m. during Mr. Ilochonwu's remarks.

The Benchers cast their votes for the election of the 2026 President-Elect. Jim Lutz, KC, was declared and congratulated as the incoming President-Elect.

Ms. Petriuk confirmed the remaining six candidates to stand for election to the Executive Committee were Ms. Bourgeois, Mr. Ilochonwu, Ms. Petersson, Ms. Runnalls, Mr. Sorokin, and Mr. Tupper. There were no nominations from the floor, the nominations were declared closed, then Ms. Petriuk read the Executive Committee election procedures.

The Benchers cast their votes for the election of the 2026 Executive Committee and the successful candidates for the four elected positions on the Executive Committee were confirmed. Ms. Petriuk congratulated the incoming Executive Committee (in alphabetical order) Ms. Bourgeois, Mr. Ilochonwu, Ms. Runnalls, and Mr. Tupper. Ms. Petriuk reported that the public representative Benchers appointed Ms. Neilson to the 2026 Executive Committee and by virtue of that appointment, she will also sit on the 2026 Nominating Committee.

Ms. Petriuk reported Ms. Meyer, Ms. Petersson, and Ms. Stewart expressed interest in serving on the Nominating Committee. The meeting recessed for a break while the

Executive Committee met to discuss who to recommend the Benchers appoint to the Nominating Committee.

5. Nominating Committee Appointment

Documentation for this item was circulated with the materials prior to the meeting. Ms. Petriuk reported that the Executive Committee met and considered the Benchers candidates' demographics and experience. The Executive Committee unanimously recommended Ms. Meyer be appointed to the 2026 Nominating Committee.

Motion: Louie/Matheson

That the Benchers approve the appointment of Kelsey Meyer to the 2026 Nominating Committee, effective immediately.

Carried

The 2026 Nominating Committee, effective immediately, is:

- Incoming President, Mr. Melnyk, Chair
- Incoming President-Elect, Mr. Lutz
- Incoming Past-President, Ms. Petriuk
- Ms. Neilson, public representative Benchers
- Ms. Meyer, Benchers not on the Executive Committee

6. 2026 Budget

Documentation for this item was circulated with the materials prior to the meeting. Ms. Neilson, Chair, Audit and Finance Committee (AFC) reported that the AFC underwent a detailed review of the 2026 Budget and considered operating requirements, Strategic Plan goals, and long-term sustainability. She shared that she was satisfied that the AFC had robust challenging discussions that informed its decision, and she recommended that the Benchers approve the 2026 Budget.

Ms. Meade presented the 2026 Draft Budget noting it was prepared with attention to operational needs, capital investments, strategic objectives, and financial sustainability. She reported that the AFC supported the final budget after thorough discussion, and she thanked all involved for their engagement.

Motion: Neilson/Tupper

To approve the Law Society of Alberta's 2026 Budget as presented.

Carried



7. Appointment of the Alberta Representative to the Council of the Federation of Law Societies of Canada

Documentation for this item was circulated with the materials prior to the meeting. Ms. Petriuk reported that in December 2026, Mr. Jensen will conclude his term as the Law Society representative on the Federation of Law Societies of Canada (Federation) Council. The Executive Committee reviewed past representatives and other names put forward and agreed that it was important for the Law Society Federation Council representative be a Past-President as they are familiar with Law Society operations and strategic work and held a leadership position.

Following the Executive Committee's discussion, the Nominating Committee reviewed options to fill this position using the criteria agreed to by the Executive Committee and considering the person's capacity to serve as Law Society Federation Council representative.

Ms. Petriuk declared her conflict in the decision, confirmed that the Benchers supported handing over the Chair to Mr. Melnyk, then recused herself.

Mr. Melnyk took the Chair and reported that the Nominating Committee unanimously recommend Ms Petriuk to assume the Law Society Federation Council representative position in December 2026.

Motion: Louie/Stewart

That the Benchers appoint Stacy Petriuk, KC, as the Law Society of Alberta representative to the Council of the Federation of Law Societies of Canada (Federation), to replace Carsten Jensen, KC, at the end of his term, effective December 1, 2026.

Carried

Ms. Petriuk returned, resumed the Chair, confirmed the results, and thanked the Benchers for the opportunity.

8. Equity, Diversity and Inclusion Committee Update

Documentation for this item was circulated with the materials prior to the meeting. The Equity, Diversity and Inclusion Committee (EDIC) met once since the October 7, 2025, Bencher meeting. At this meeting the EDIC discussed proposed adjustments to the Articling Placement Program and approved a draft Reconciliation Framework.

9. Policy and Regulatory Reform Committee Update

Documentation for this item was circulated with the materials prior to the meeting. The Policy and Regulatory Reform Committee did not meet since the October 7, 2025, Bencher meeting due to other policy priorities arising.

10. Federation of Law Societies of Canada Update

Documentation for this item was circulated with the materials prior to the meeting. The report included updates about the (1) Federation Annual Conference, (2) Strategic Planning and Governance Conference Discussion, (3) Federation Council meeting post-conference status of ongoing initiatives and other discussions including Strategic Planning and Governance, approval of Rule of Law Campaign participation, intervention application update, National Committee on Accreditation (NCA) Modernization recommendations approval, NCA Assessment policy changes and Canadian Legal Information Institute (CanLII) update, and (4) The Standing Committee on the Model Code update.

11. Audit and Finance Committee Update

Documentation for this item was circulated with the materials prior to the meeting. The report included a summary of the AFC's work since the October 7, 2025, Benchers meeting including the 2026 Budget work, interim financial and investments review, receipt of a Transforming Us Program (T-Us) update and request for proposal (RFP) process for a balanced active investment manager. Ms. Neilson added that interviews with potential balanced active investment manager firms are expected to be held in December and the AFC will be receiving a detailed T-Us update at its February 2026 meeting.

12. Tribunal Office Update

Documentation for this item was circulated with the materials prior to the meeting. The report included adjudications, training and adjudicator updates, and recognition of retired public representative Benchers Glen Buick and Louise Wasylenko. Recruitment of public adjudicators will be held in spring 2026.

13. CONSENT AGENDA

Documentation for this item was circulated with the materials prior to the meeting. No requests were made to remove this item from the consent agenda.

Motion: Matheson/Nagina

That the Benchers approve the October 7, 2025, Public Benchers Meeting Minutes as presented.

Carried

14. EXTERNAL REPORTS

The following external agency reports were circulated with the materials prior to the meeting:

14.1 Alberta Law Reform Institute Report

14.2 Alberta Lawyers' Assistance Society (Assist) Report

14.3 Canadian Bar Association Alberta Report

14.4 Canadian Centre for Professional Legal Education Report

14.5 Legal Education of Society of Alberta Report

14.6 Pro Bono Law Alberta (PBLA) Report

15. Discussion of Annual General Meeting First Member Motion Outcome

Secretary's note: The two member motions at the November 27, 2025, Annual General Meeting were lost, and no further action is required by the Benchers.

16. Discussion of Annual General Meeting Second Member Motion Outcome

Secretary's Note: see above.

17. Other Business

There was no other business.

18. Adjournment

The public meeting adjourned at 2:19 p.m.