



Keep Reaching High

With the continued growth of the paralegal profession, shouldn't law firms make a collective endeavour to profile their paralegals on firm websites? This question was brought to my attention recently – by a colleague outside of the legal industry – feeling surprised after searching online for a paralegal only to find that not all law firms include paralegals on their websites. This got me thinking. Why do some firms choose not to highlight paralegals on their website?

I cannot count the number of times a potential client has told me during the initial contact that they looked at my firm's website before our meeting. They want to see and read about the person they might work with and start to form a connection and build trust. They need an appreciation of the paralegal's career background and level of experience and get a sense of whether this practitioner – and their expertise – is the right fit. Clients need to feel confidence in their investment. With paralegals playing such an integral role on the legal team and working so closely with clients, it's critical to include paralegals as part of a firm's online presence. Yet, there are many firms that do not do this.

With the recent announcement by the Ministry of Attorney General, I think it is more important now than ever for firms to showcase their paralegals on their external websites. In case you missed it, the [Ministry announced on March 3¹](#) that a legislative proposal would be developed that will involve, "regulating all legal professionals in BC under a single statute and by a single regulator." Not only would this include lawyers and notaries, but also paralegals. The Ministry stated, "Having all legal professionals under one independent regulator will help ensure an efficient and centralized approach to closing the access to justice gap. The changes will also strengthen the governance framework for all legal professions." This is a significant step for paralegals in BC.

Considering this announcement and moving towards a model where paralegals get included as legal professionals who would be regulated, it's time for law firms to showcase paralegals on firm websites, just as they do partners, associates, and the firm's management team. It's time to

PRESIDENT'S
MESSAGE



recognize paralegals proudly and broadcast the value they bring to the profession. If you work at a firm that does not currently include paralegals on its website, I encourage you to share this message with your human resources manager.

The BCPA has some Board announcements! Firstly, **Tanya Groutage** resigned from the Board in December, most recently serving as Treasurer and one of the association's Vice-Presidents. Throughout her decade of service, Tanya made countless contributions to help make the BCPA thrive. We thank Tanya for her years of volunteer service and dedication.

Next, the provincial government has appointed me to serve as a Bencher for the Law Society of BC. In accepting this new volunteer role, I have resigned from the BCPA board. Thank you for the opportunity to have worked with you and the Board throughout the years. I have truly enjoyed my time on the Board and serving as the association's President.

Finally, I am thrilled to announce that Director **Elizabeth Kollias** has stepped seamlessly into the leadership role as BCPA President! Congratulations, Elizabeth! Elizabeth has already begun her governance duties for the BCPA so you'll hear more from and about Elizabeth soon.

Mark your calendars! The BCPA is ready to resume in-person events. On April 29, the BCPA will host the annual Vancouver Spring Dinner at the Vancouver Convention Centre West with keynote speaker, former Attorney General of BC, The Honourable Wally Oppal, Q.C. Then, Okanagan members will gather on May 13 for the annual Okanagan Dinner Event – details will follow soon.

Stay well,
Michèle Ross

¹ <https://news.gov.bc.ca/releases/2022AG0029-000285>

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Return to In-Person Teaching

We kick off this year with some happy news: we have emerged from the pandemic, and have returned to in-person teaching! When I wrote this update at this time last year, I wondered – as I will bet you did – when we would return to teach on campus in-person. Even then, I don’t think I could have imagined that the answer to that question would be January 31, 2022. But in the end, that was the date that the School of Legal Studies made the shift back to teaching face-to-face.

We did not make this decision to transition back to in-person learning lightly. Under the unfailingly empathetic leadership of our Co-Chairs Deb Jamison and Sara El Rayess, we took care to do so in a way that accommodated the concerns and anxieties of our students and allowed everyone to participate fully, regardless of their circumstances.

To say that it has been a joy to see the (masked) faces of students and colleagues once again on campus would be an understatement. Speaking for myself, I admit to some apprehension at the thought of contending with masks, social distancing, and so on while teaching. However, those fears dissipated as soon as the first class back on campus began. I feel so very grateful to work with such an amazing community of faculty, staff, and students as we collaborate to forge our way to a “new normal”.

Despite our elation at returning to campus, we remain aware of the benefits and convenience to many students who will attend classes remotely and will keep this context in mind as we plan course offerings going forward.

Program Developments

Thanks to the dedication of our faculty member Angeline Han, as of September 2022 (once we have received approval from the Ministry of Advanced Education), CapU students in non-law programs will have an opportunity to declare a Minor in Legal Studies. We thank Angeline for all the hard work she put into bringing this new development to fruition!

In addition, we have some exciting new elective courses to announce:

- Criminal Law II
- International Climate Change Law
- Private International Law (and we have changed the name of International Law to Public International Law)

We hope to see these electives run for the first time in the 2022-2023 academic year.

Faculty Achievements

Our very own Karen Yip, a beloved instructor in our program, and Founder, Director, and CEO-extraordinaire of Choro – a digital platform that connects seniors to helpers nearby for companionship and home help – was recently selected as one of Telus Pollinator’s 2022 New Founders to Watch.

Speaking of fabulous Karens we have the good fortune to have as part of our faculty, LAA instructor Karen Roussy will receive the 2022 CapU Alumni Award of Excellence in the Luminous category in March.

Congratulations to both Karens! You both deserve these important recognitions!

Going Forward

At the School of Legal Studies, we aim to support the legal community as best we can, in terms of our curriculum and programming. On that note, if you have a suggestion, we would love to hear from you! Email us anytime at legalstudies@capilano.ca.



Celeste received a Bachelor of Arts in Psychology from the University of Victoria in 2005, and a JD from the University of British Columbia in 2010. She articulated at the Vancouver firm of Farris, Vaughan, Wills & Murphy, and after admission to the bar, continued practising there for several years as a litigator. Celeste joined the School of Legal Studies at Capilano University in the Spring of 2017. She has taught a variety of courses over the last few years, including Legal Drafting, Legal Interviewing, Estates and Procedures, Intellectual Property, and Introduction to Law.

BCPA BULLETIN

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Choosing a new eDiscovery Platform

BY ANN HALKETT, ALEXANDER HOLBURN BEAUDIN + LANG LLP & MONIQUE SEVER, HARPER GREY LLP

Many firms in Canada recently received notice that their eDiscovery software (Ipro Eclipse) will sunset. As a result, affected firms must now find replacement software.

Last month (March 8), the International Legal Technology Association and the BC Legal Management Association's Litigation Support subsection held a joint session to discuss the topic featuring guest speakers:

- Ann Halkett, Director of eDiscovery Services at Alexander Holburn Beaudin + Lang LLP
- Ceyda Tocsoy, Director, eDiscovery Services at Miller Thomson LLP
- Veronica MacInnis, eDiscovery Case Manager at Stikeman Elliott LLP

This article highlights that discussion.

The process of obtaining a new platform can be broken down into these key phases.

Phase 1 – Information Gathering

It is imperative that you know what you want and then shop for those features in a platform. To start, create a questionnaire to review with your key users, software administrators, and your IT group. The questions should cover key features in the current platform and ask users what they like and dislike about same. Be sure to ask what they would like to see in a new platform as well.

Establish a committee to review the answers and determine the must-haves, should-haves, and the nice-to-haves. This agreed-upon list will help you keep on track since it can be easy to be swayed by shiny bells and whistles when looking across all of the available eDiscovery platforms.

Phase 2 – Software Identification

Next, find out what software is available. Contact your peers and ask them what they use and what they like and dislike about same. Contact vendors and provide them with your shopping list. Attend demos. To compare apples to apples, provide the vendor with a list of features that they must exhibit during their demonstration. Use the list you created in Phase 1.

You may also want to consider whether you want to have the software on-premises or in the cloud. If in the cloud, you need to understand which hosting partners are available, what software they can offer, and how they structure their services.

The March 8 presentation contains the names of on-premises platforms and hosting/ managed services partners. Contact Ann Halkett (ahalkett@ahbl.ca) or Monique Sever (msever@harpergrey.com) to obtain a copy of the presentation.

Phase 3 – Software Analysis Matrix

Narrow down the list of vendors and then have them present to your committee. Involve your stakeholders in the process (e.g., partners, heavy users, and IT) as they need to see what the software can do and understand how it will benefit them.

Ideally, you should have a maximum of three platforms present and then conduct a proof of concept (POC). When organizing the POC, consider whether you have an existing database that you can input into each test platform. When you use a database that your users have familiarity with, then they will know what to look for. This will make it easier for them to make a comparison. Have a checklist of things your users need to test; again, leverage the list you created in Phase 1.

Phase 4 – Pricing Considerations

No one likes surprises, and pricing is the area that can result in the most unpalatable surprises. Pricing can differ depending on whether you operate on premise or in the cloud (hosted), or with a managed services provider. Keep the following considerations in mind.

On-Premises Software Pricing Considerations

- How many years is the contract for and what is the percentage increase each year? Are you entitled to all new features, or will the vendor charge extra if they add new ones?
- What is the support model? Are there additional costs associated with support?
- What training packages are available and what is involved?
- How many users will you have? Is licensing concurrent or via named user? (Pricing will vary greatly between each!)
- What infrastructure is needed to support the on-premises

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platform? Factor in replacement and upgrading of servers and software such as SQL. Also factor in IT personnel salaries and training. This is important information to have at the outset as hosting/managed services may be less expensive when you factor in these additional costs.

Hosting/Managed Services Pricing Considerations

- Hosting vendors may provide you with a specific number of users or a per monthly user charge. Get clarity on this.
- How much data do you currently use and what would that translate to in costs with a hosting vendor who traditionally charge on a per gigabyte basis?
- How much storage will you need over time?
- Do they charge any one-time lump sum charges?
- Do they charge for undertaking certain tasks for you or do you have full control?

Additional costs to consider

- With regards to template and workflow mapping development in the new platform, will you need to hire someone to help you with this?
- Migrating data can be very expensive. Will you have your own team do this or will you need to hire someone?

Phase 5 – Solution Recommendation

Meet with your testing group at the completion of the POC process and ask them their thoughts about each platform. A clear choice should emerge.

If you work at a smaller firm, the process may be less formal where you may simply take a vote. Your committee can advocate for the choice to your firm's leaders. At a larger firm, you may need to draft an executive summary and create a presentation about the process and how you arrived at the ultimate decision.

Phase 6 – Implementation and Change Management

You will need buy-in from the top down to get users to buy into using the new platform. Consider a change network to help advocate for the new system. The network would comprise a cross-section of individuals of various seniority

who have a solid reputation in the firm and speak 'the language' of the respective group or practice area(s) they work with.

Make sure to set up the new platform so that it is easy to use and then train users according to what they will need to do when initially using the platform. Additional, more specific training can follow.

At this stage, it is important to document protocols and processes to ensure clarity, comprehension, and compliance.

You will also need to consider how you will recover costs, but cost recovery is a topic for another day!



Ann Halkett is the Director, eDiscovery Services at Alexander Holburn Beaudin + Lang LLP. Ann teaches the "Electronic Evidence and Litigation Technology" course in the Paralegal Program at Vancouver Community College with Monique Sever, is the President of the Vancouver chapter of the Association of Certified E-Discovery Specialists and part of the team involved with drafting the certification manual and exam for national certification. Ann is also a Co-Member Liaison for Vancouver with the International Legal Technology Association.



Monique Sever is a Paralegal and the Litigation Support & eDiscovery Supervisor for Harper Grey LLP. She is co-creator and instructor of the Electronic Discovery and Litigation Technology course at Vancouver Community College, and Co-chair of the Practice + Procedures Focus Group. Monique is a member of the BCPA, British Columbia Legal Management Association – Litigation Support Subsection, Association of Litigation Support Professionals (Vancouver), and International Legal Technology Association – Co-Member Liaison for Vancouver.



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Mask On, Mask Off

BY KEVIN YEE, MCKECHNIE & COMPANY

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We are on the tail end of the latest COVID-19 wave. This winter, many of us got sick with COVID-19 or know someone who did. This spring, there are signs that we are slowly heading back to the Before Time.

As of March, the BC Provincial Health Authority dropped its requirement for mask-wearing in public indoor settings. Masks are no longer required in schools or on public transit either. As of April, the Provincial Health Authority will no longer require proof of vaccination for accessing businesses and services. That said, individual businesses will be allowed to make their own mask or vaccine policies for their premises. That is an important qualifier.

By putting the onus on individual businesses, they may become targets in a wave of complaints of human rights discrimination. These would allege that a business, in keeping a mask or vaccine policy, has discriminated someone who does not agree with the policy.

Here is a quick primer on human rights law in BC. The [Human Rights Code](#) sets out five areas of daily life where we are protected from discrimination: employment, housing, services, membership in unions/associations, and publications. In these “protected areas” of daily life, discrimination based on certain personal characteristics is forbidden. These characteristics, listed in the Code, are commonly referred to as the grounds of discrimination.

The BC Human Rights Tribunal is responsible for processing and deciding on human rights cases. In the first year and a half of the pandemic, the tribunal was swamped with complaints of discrimination relating to masks or vaccines. They reportedly received twice as many complaints as what they were capable of handling. There were so many that [their website put up an entire page](#) devoted to mask and vaccination requirements.

Their website addresses how the tribunal views mask policies. In general, a business is allowed to set these policies for its premises so long as it is based in evidence, made in good faith, and allows for reasonable accommodation. People who cannot wear a mask due a protected characteristic (e.g., physical disability) are entitled to reasonable accommodation from the business.

It’s important to note that accommodations don’t need to be extreme – only reasonable. So what might be considered a “reasonable accommodation”? In certain instances, the tribunal has found that retail stores offering unmasked customers the option of outdoor pickup or online shopping have made reasonable accommodations. Because reasonable accommodations were made, the complaints against those businesses were dismissed.

The tribunal takes a similar view of vaccination requirements. Last fall, they dismissed two complaints at the screening stage of the process. They took the extra step of publishing their decisions to inform the public on what constitutes human rights discrimination.

In one of the published decisions, known only as [Complainant v. Dr. Bonnie Henry](#), someone complained that he was denied services because of his unvaccinated status. He explained his reluctance to vaccinate by saying that he has asthma, had childhood pneumonia, and was reluctant to take an “experimental” vaccine.

The tribunal outlined three critical requirements for discrimination. First, there must be a personal characteristic that is protected by the Code. Second, there must be adverse impact in one of the areas of daily life that is protected by the Code. Finally, the protected characteristic and the adverse impact must be connected.

In that case, the tribunal acknowledged that the complainant’s asthma could be a physical disability, which is a characteristic protected by the Code. However, the complainant had not actually been denied any services. He made his complaint only on hearing news about the vaccine mandate. The tribunal saw that there was no actual adverse impact but, at most, the prospect of adverse impact.

Even if there was an adverse impact, the tribunal noted there was no connection between asthma and not getting a vaccine. The man’s asthma did not prevent him from getting vaccinated. Distrust of the vaccine was not enough to connect any physical disability to any adverse impact. As a result, the tribunal refused to allow this complaint to go any further.

In the second published case, known as [Complainant v. John Horgan](#), the tribunal dismissed a complaint of discrimination of political beliefs by an employer. The tribunal stressed that although political beliefs can be protected, the protection does not exempt anyone from following public health orders. Instead, it protects someone from discrimination for their political beliefs. Again, the tribunal clarified the requirement of discrimination: a protected characteristic (such as political beliefs) must be connected to an adverse impact in a protected area (such as mistreatment by an employer).

Businesses are faced with difficult decisions about whether to continue COVID-19 safety measures. They need to ensure the safety of staff and customers but remain respectful of everyone. This pandemic has forced us all to consider how to balance individual choice with the health of the general public. The tribunal’s decisions give some clarity as to where that balance lies.



Kevin Yee is a trial lawyer at McKechnie & Company. He helps people and businesses with dispute resolution and negotiations.

A word of caution: You should not act or rely on the information in this column. It is not legal advice. To ensure your interests are protected, retain or consult a lawyer. The author’s opinions are based on news reporting and not on any firsthand knowledge or any personal involvement of those cases.



The Shape of Intention

BY GEOFFREY T. DESMOULIN, GTD SCIENTIFIC INC.

Current forensic investigations often involve analysis of video evidence, which may have limited resolution and clarity, particularly when acquired under poor lighting conditions or when objects of interest are in the distance. A recent case involving a nighttime police shooting of a suspect illustrates how some relatively simple image processing techniques can be used to resolve ambiguity in body worn camera images. In this case, the officers mistook a mobile phone for a firearm. Fearing that they were being targeted at close range, they used deadly force to subdue the suspect. The principal question in the investigation was whether the officers' judgment of the intention of the subject could be substantiated.

Figure 1 illustrates three postures which could be interpreted as a suspect holding a mobile phone in a shooting stance. These shooting stances are further illustrated in a night time video reenactment shown in the bottom rows of the figure, along with a fourth posture in which the subject is looking down at the phone, rather than deploying it like a firearm. One feature which distinguishes these postures from each other is the shape of the outline of subject, as depicted in the bottom row. The key to the forensic investigation was determining whether the suspect had adopted an aggressive shooting posture, which could have been interpreted as a threat by the officers.

Because the two officers thought that the suspect was armed, they quickly took cover. Therefore, their body worn cameras only briefly captured the suspect in the distance. Since lighting conditions were poor, single frames from the video lacked sufficient clarity to determine whether the suspect was posed in a shooting stance. However, there were 10 consecutive frames in one of the videos in which the suspect could be seen, albeit with little clarity. The suspect appeared to be stationary and there was relatively little camera movement, providing an opportunity to average the images. Image averaging is a technique long used by night sky photographers to enhance the brightness of stars and nebulae, adding detail to the image without artificial manipulation of the image. The top panel of Figure 2 shows a portion of a single frame from the video in which the suspect is visible. The bottom panel of the figure shows the results of aligning and averaging the 10 consecutive frames.

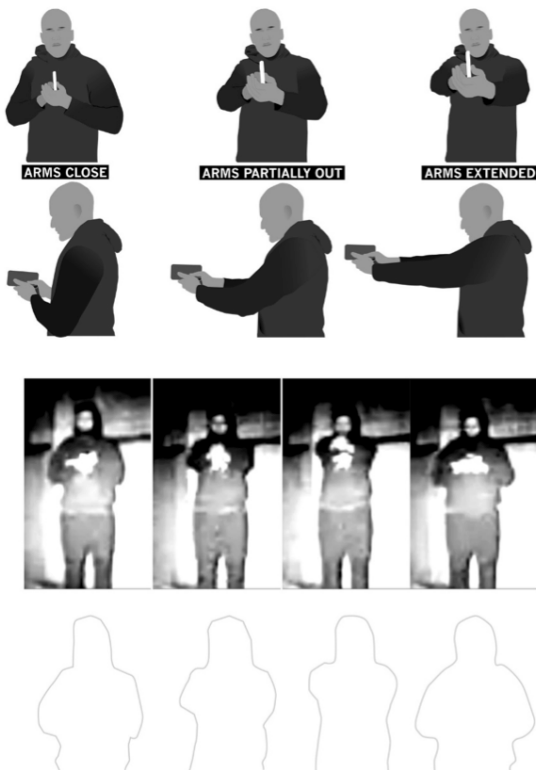


Figure 1

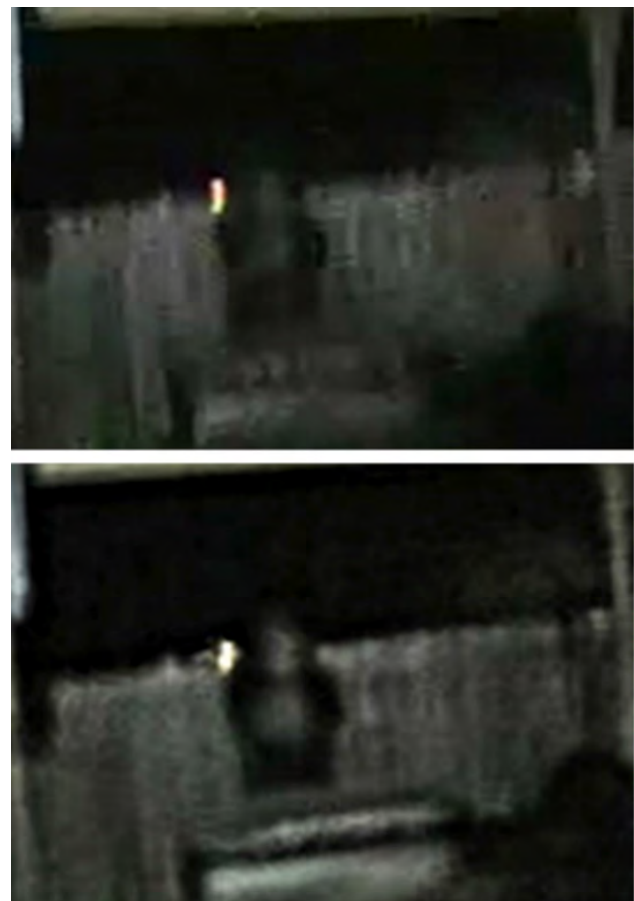


Figure 2

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Although there is insufficient detail in the averaged image to clearly see the suspect's hands, the suspect's outline was sufficiently distinct to allow for shape similarity analysis of his upper body. One measure of shape similarity that is relatively straightforward to implement and has the desirable properties of uniqueness and robustness to image deformation and noise is the Hausdorff distance. It has been employed in applications such as artificial vision and object recognition. The Hausdorff distance is determined by first measuring the distance from every point on the outline of a reference object to every point on the outline of the object to which it is being compared. At each point on the reference object, the minimum distance to the comparison object is determined. The largest value of this set of minimum distances represents the Hausdorff distance. The smaller the Hausdorff distance, the more similar the two shapes.

The left panel in Figure 3 illustrates the process of calculating the Hausdorff distance as applied in comparing the outlines illustrated in Figure 1 to the reference outline obtained from the bottom panel of Figure 2. The reference outline is shown here in black and one of the comparison outlines is shown in the red. The dashed blue lines illustrate distances from one point on the reference outline to several points on the comparison outline. The dashed line labeled D_m represents the minimum of all distances from the comparison outline to that point on the reference outline. For every point on the reference outline there is a minimum distance to the comparison outline. The Hausdorff distance is the largest value among these minimum distances.

The right panel in Figure 3 shows the result of the similarity analysis for the four postures shown in the third row of Figure 1. The key finding is that the posture representing looking down at the mobile phone had the largest Hausdorff distance, making it much more likely that the suspect had adopted a threatening shooting stance, pointing his mobile phone at the officers, than that he was simply looking at his phone.

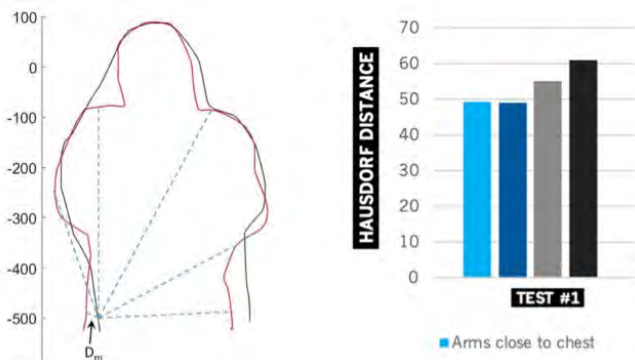


Figure 3

An important feature of image averaging is that it did not involve any manipulation of the original images. It simply removed random noise in the image, which allowed the

suspect's outline to be drawn more accurately. Shape similarity analysis provided a validated and quantitative method to distinguish between different intentions and an objective means of substantiating the officers' perception of danger.

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My Road to Innovation Sandbox

BY MAYETTE OSTONAL, CLARK WILSON LLP

In November of 2020, the Law Society of British Columbia began accepting proposals for their “Innovation Sandbox”. BCPA President Michèle Ross has kept association members up to date on Sandbox activities through this newsletter, but if you’re still wondering what it’s all about or what to expect when making an application, keep reading!

In short, the Sandbox is a Law Society of British Columbia initiative that allows non-lawyers to provide legal services to the public with the Law Society’s blessing. Individuals submit a proposal through a simple application process. If the Sandbox committee approves the proposal, then the applicant receives a “no-action” letter from the Society and then they can effectively hang up their shingle and start providing the legal services proposed.

Proposals approved so far run the gamut of legal services – from a lawyer-referral website to a wills and power of attorney generator. One individual has created an online arbitration platform where parties can enter their acceptable terms of settlement to see if anything matches the other party’s terms. Another individual has started offering corporate records services, including name registration and annual report filing. Others have started offering advocate services for Small Claims, Civil Resolution Tribunal, and Residential Tenancy Branch matters. Other non-lawyers have started providing services through the law firm they work at while others have started providing services on their own. I am one of those former individuals!

I never had the ambition to practice on my own; if I did, I would have become a lawyer, right? For a long time, that seemed the only option. But when the Law Society announced the Innovation Sandbox, I felt immediately excited. I considered it a great opportunity for paralegals in general, particularly ones who had the inclination to strike out on their own. I couldn’t see myself offering any services because I didn’t really want to take on the responsibility of giving legal advice or preparing documents for clients. Nevertheless, I had years of knowledge and skills I knew could be useful to someone who didn’t have a legal background and I knew I wanted to provide affordable legal services to those who needed them. I also wanted to take advantage of the opportunity the Law Society offered so I kept thinking about what I could do.

Then I learned about legal coaching. Jo-Anne Stark from the Legal Coaches Association (LCA) gave a presentation to the members of the BCPA in the fall of 2020. I attended and discovered that legal coaching was just the kind of opportunity I was looking for. It comprised all of the important activities I already performed for clients at my day job such as explaining registry and court procedures, helping with legal forms, and encouraging clients when they start to feel like they are going in circles. Coaching wasn’t about providing legal advice; rather, it became about arming self-represented litigants with the

knowledge and understanding of the court system that they did not have.

I’d already met a lot of motivated self-reps in my volunteer work with Amici Curiae Friends of Court. Additionally, through the LCA seminar and training, I became aware of the large percentage of the population who had the ability to handle most aspects of their legal claim on their own but still needed a bit of assistance with procedures and the little things that don’t always get mentioned in the Rules of Court or practices notices. Though many self-reps had done their research and knew what they wanted to say in their arguments or applications, many needed help making their pleadings or arguments sound more “lawyer-y”. And I thought, “I can do that.” With that idea in mind, I submitted my proposal for the Innovation Sandbox.

It was important to me, as a paralegal and as a voting member and Board member of the BC Paralegal Association, to take advantage of the opportunity the Law Society is providing.

The proposal form itself is quite simple and high-level. The form only requires you to describe what services you plan to provide, how the services will address unmet legal needs in BC, and your intended consumers. It also asks about your career background, but a resume or long-form CV is not requested. I filled out the form like I would have filled out an application for a timeshare: excitedly but without much thought about the gritty details. I knew what the end-game was but I didn’t really take into consideration what came in between sending the proposal and getting my no-action letter.

Within a couple of days of submitting my application, I received an email from a Law Society lawyer who served as my advisor for the proposal process. Now it got more serious and in-depth. She asked all the hard questions – the answers to which I hadn’t really thought about, such as what exactly legal coaching entailed. Would I fill out documents for clients or perform legal research? Did I intend on acting as an advocate and appearing in tribunal hearings or in Small Claims trials? Would I write any submissions or settlement proposals on behalf of clients? I realized I hadn’t really fleshed out what it was I intended to do. I just knew I wanted to do something.

I rolled up my sleeves, and my advisor really helped me identify and narrow down the tasks I wanted to help potential clients with. Together, we defined my scope of services, which included

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providing procedural information for Small Claims and Supreme Court matters, specifically in personal injury claims, as well as document proofreading and editing for form and readability, but not content. Nowhere in my proposal do I say I intend on giving legal advice or performing legal research, so I am not required to carry liability insurance. The whole process took about six months (I needed a lot of help!) and I was in the first group of people who were accepted into the Sandbox in June 2021.

You might now be thinking: I didn't need the Law Society's permission to provide any of the services I proposed to offer as a legal coach, but my risk-averse nature wanted to err on the side of caution. Plus, the entire process helped me focus on what I wanted to offer. Moreover, it was important to me, as a paralegal and as a voting member and Board member of the BC Paralegal Association, to take advantage of the opportunity the Law Society is providing. How many paralegal initiatives have come up in the past 20 years that have either been underutilized by lawyers or that only a handful of paralegals ever participated in? All of those opportunities depended on a lawyer taking responsibility for the work we, as paralegals, did on their behalf. Even the "Designated Paralegal" designation doesn't follow the paralegal – it relies on whichever lawyer is willing to vouch for that paralegal.

Being accepted into the Innovation Sandbox means that I am a paralegal who can (if I so choose) go out on my own and provide legal services. I could start a paralegal firm with other Sandbox participants. (I don't plan to, but I could!). Currently, the Innovation Sandbox has accepted just 18 participants. Whether that's because the committee is inundated with proposals and they are helping applicants define their services or it's because no one else has submitted a proposal, I don't know. I do know that any time I get a call or an email from someone wanting to know about my experience applying for the Sandbox or providing coaching services, I speak effusively about both, and I wholeheartedly tell people who reach out to me to just go for it! The worst that can happen is the Law Society says "no".

To those paralegals who have looked for and waited for an opportunity to provide legal services under their own name, the time has finally come. What are you waiting for? There's plenty of room in the Sandbox.

If you would like more first-hand knowledge about the Innovation Sandbox, or would like to learn more about legal coaching, email me at mayette.bcpa@gmail.com. I'd love to connect with you!

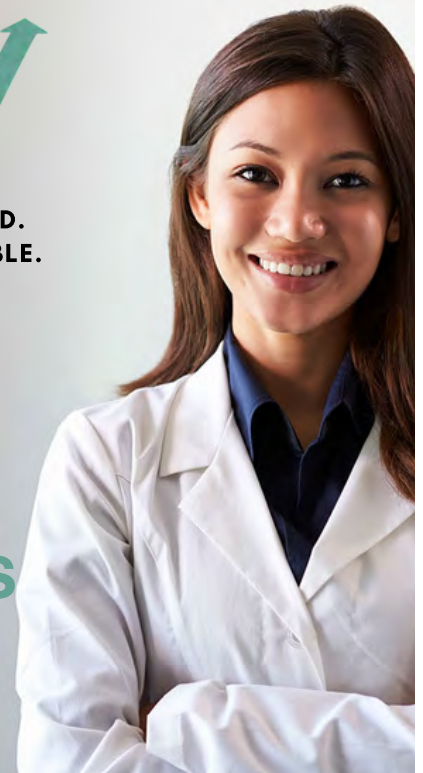


Mayette works as a litigation paralegal in strata property group at Clark Wilson LLP. Recently, Mayette became a certified legal coach. She is a contributing author to the Law Courts Center Guide to Civil Procedure (included in CanLii's Manual to BC Civil Litigation) and volunteers with Amici Curiae Friends of Court, which pair self-represented litigants with paralegals who help them complete their legal forms. As a BC Paralegal Association board member, Mayette acts in the roles of Vice President and Social Media Chair.



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