



**July 2, 2024**

**Judicial Appointments to the Provincial Court of British Columbia**

It is my great pleasure and privilege to announce that the Lieutenant Governor in Council has signed Orders in Council appointing two new Provincial Court judges to the Provincial Court.

The new judge appointments are Parveen Kaur Nijjar and Paul Pearson.

**Judge Nijjar** – will be sworn in on July 25, 2024. She will be assigned to the Fraser region with chambers in Abbotsford.

Parveen Nijjar has been working as a lawyer for over 15 years. After completing law school, she worked in international development and policy and legislation for the United Nations in Uzbekistan. She then returned to Victoria, where she articulated in a high volume legal aid practice in child protection, family and criminal defence. After her call to the bar, she focussed on working in the area of child protection and family mediation, ultimately becoming Director's counsel. In 2018, she joined Legal Services Branch as Director's counsel, and she supervised a team of more than 15 professionals. Her most current position was Deputy Supervisor, Ministry of Attorney General, Legal Services Branch.

Ms. Nijjar speaks Punjabi very proficiently and is moderately proficient in Russian and Hindi. Active in her community, Ms. Nijjar volunteers in many organizations. As one of the Directors in the Saheli Organization, she is a fundraiser and is involved in organizing hot breakfasts at elementary schools, delivering school supplies, and creating connections with local transition houses and community agencies to provide services to low income families.

**Judge Pearson** - will be sworn in on July 25, 2024. He will be assigned to the Vancouver Island region with chambers in Victoria.

Judge Pearson has been with the Crown office since July of 2018. Prior to that, he was a partner at a well respected criminal defence firm, Mulligan, Tam, Pearson Law Corporation for 20 years. He articulated with a large law firm in Vancouver and clerked at the BC Supreme Court. For four years, from 2016 through 2021, he was also an adjunct professor at the University of Victoria law school, teaching Criminal Procedure and Ethics. He received the inaugural adjunct professor award for excellence. Since being at the Crown office, he has been awarded the Crown leadership award for developing a cross examination training series that has been implemented province wide. He spent many years as an elected representative for the Canadian Bar Association and held many table officer positions for the Victoria Bar Association including president and vice-president.

The Court congratulates its newest colleagues on their appointments and welcomes them to the Provincial Court.

Melissa Gillespie  
Chief Judge  
Provincial Court of British Columbia