



ALBERTA
JUSTICE AND SOLICITOR GENERAL

*Office of the Minister
MLA, Calgary - Elbow*

AR 34029

August 1, 2019

Law Society of Alberta
Suite 500, 919 11 Ave SW
Calgary AB T2R 1P3

Dear Members of the Bar:

I am happy to announce that in 2020, the tradition of issuing Queen's Counsel (QC) appointments will resume. QCs will be awarded to lawyers who are found to have made a significant contribution to the legal profession or public life in the province, as determined by the Lieutenant Governor in Council.

Applications

Lawyers who wish to be considered for a QC appointment must be eligible under the *Queen's Counsel Act* and must submit an application. Applications will be accepted starting Tuesday, September 3, 2019, and the deadline is Thursday, October 17, 2019, at 4:30 p.m.

Applications may be submitted using an online tool that will be on the Justice and Solicitor General website: www.alberta.ca/queens-counsel. The website and online tool will be activated on September 3, 2019. Physical submissions will not be accepted.

All applications must include the following documentation:

- Completed web form;
- Current résumé;
- Consent to Disclosure of Personal Information; and
- Three individually attached letters of reference, to a maximum of two pages per letter. In order to comply with the *Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act*, each letter of reference must state as follows:

This letter may be disclosed to Alberta Justice and Solicitor General, the Law Society of Alberta, the Queen's Counsel Screening Committee, and as otherwise required for use in the Queen's Counsel selection process.

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Nominations will not be accepted. If an individual thinks a particular lawyer ought to receive a QC appointment, the individual may suggest the lawyer submit an application and the individual could be a reference for that lawyer.

Review Process

All completed application packages will be reviewed by the Queen's Counsel Screening Committee. The Committee will then advise me whether each applicant is highly recommended, recommended, or not recommended at this time.

The Screening Committee is comprised of the following:

- President, Law Society of Alberta;
- President-Elect, Law Society of Alberta;
- President, Canadian Bar Association, Alberta Branch;
- Chief Justice of Alberta, or nominee;
- Chief Justice, Court of Queen's Bench, or nominee;
- Associate Chief Justice, Court of Queen's Bench, or nominee;
- Chief Judge, Provincial Court, or nominee;
- an Assistant Chief Judge;
- the Minister of Justice and Solicitor General, or nominee;
- a Lay Benchers;
- a Representative from each of the North, Central and Southern Districts; and
- the Deputy Attorney General, or nominee.

The awarding of the Queen's Counsel designation is solely within the discretion of the Lieutenant Governor in Council. The criteria found in the attached document will be considered.

Further questions about the Queen's Counsel application process may be directed to the Office of the Deputy Minister at 780-427-5032, toll free in Alberta by first dialling 310-0000, or at QC-Mail@gov.ab.ca.

Sincerely,



Doug Schweitzer
Minister of Justice and Solicitor General

Attachment

Criteria for Queen's Counsel Selection

1. The Minister of Justice will consider certain criteria when considering an application for Queen's Counsel (Her Majesty's Counsel, learned in the law, for the Province of Alberta) and will award the appointments of Queen's Counsel to those lawyers who have demonstrated the following attributes to the extent that they make the applicant a leader in the legal profession.

Competence, including

- Sound intellectual ability with a thorough, comprehensive and current knowledge of law and practice in the applicant's field
- Distinguished legal service with demanding and challenging legal work that contributes to the development of the law and practice
- A recognized expertise in a particular area of law and practice (which may include the general practice of law)
- An outstanding ability as a lawyer in the applicant's field, to a standard to be expected of Queen's Counsel

Professional Qualities, including

- A history of honesty, integrity, discretion and candid dealings in professional and personal matters including dealings with professional colleagues, clients, lay people and the courts and in the execution of duties as an officer of the court
- The trust and confidence of others
- The respect of fellow lawyers
- The respect of the Bench and administrative tribunals before which the applicant may appear
- Demonstrated mentorship of junior members of the Bar

2. The Minister of Justice may also consider the following in awarding a Queen's Counsel:

Contribution to the Administration of Justice, including

- A demonstrated commitment to make legal services available to all who require them, regardless of the ability to pay
- A superior commitment to access to justice

Contribution to the Community, including

- A superior contribution to the life of the community including leadership on community, cultural and philanthropic organizations
- Contributions to the community in order to further the well-being of the community

- Providing service and support to communities and community organizations in ways that encourage initiative, self-help, cooperation and partnership building

Contribution to the Legal Profession, including

- A superior contribution to the legal profession through leadership in governance of the profession or Bar related activities
 - A superior contribution to legal scholarship through teaching or legal writing and research
 - A recognition of superior contribution in a variety of legal practices, including service to government, business corporations, non-profit organizations, administrative tribunals, academic institutions, Crown Prosecutor's office and the Law Society
3. The Minister is committed to consider each application on the established merits of the individual alone without regard to law firm affiliation or seniority at the Bar and will consider each application on an equal basis regardless of gender, age, race, ethnic or national origin, religion, sexual orientation, marital or family status, disability or political affiliation.