

BIOGRAPHICAL INFORMATION

I was born in Old Massett, Haida Gwaii and raised in Prince Rupert. I have a JD from UVic and a LLM from UBC. I work in the areas of family law, child protection, immigration, and human rights. I am the proud father of two children who have now left the nest.

I have worked as a lawyer and mediator in family law, family mediation and child protection for 25 years. In recent years, I have also represented clients before the Immigration Refugee Board and Refugee Appeal Board. From 1998 to 2007, I was a member of the Canadian Human Rights Commission and worked on the repeal of s. 67 of the *Canadian Human Rights Act*. The repeal of s. 67 had far reaching implications including enabling the First Nations Child and Family Caring Society of Canada and the Assembly of First Nations to successfully obtain a decision to help Indigenous children in care.

I spent 13 years in foster care, have fostered various Indigenous children, and currently do battle with two cats on a daily basis. The cats are winning.

Elect Kelly Harvey Russ for
B.C. Law Society Bencher (No.1 County of Vancouver)

(Voting Period: November 1st-15th, 2021)

ELECTION STATEMENT

I ask for the most precious commodity you have as members of the LSBC: your vote for LSBC Bencher (County of Vancouver). I will dedicate myself to your well-being and make our honourable profession more inclusive and accepting of lawyers seeking to serve those in need. Our profession is changing around us and I want to work with the LSBC to ensure that the practice and the business of law works for all our members.

I am passionate about issues of diversity within the profession at all levels. I am committed to advancing the hard work of Karen Snowshoe and others in the LSBC's work of implementing

relevant recommendations of the Truth and Reconciliation Calls to Action. I am committed to working with the LSBC for the betterment of our profession and our community as a whole.

I am committed to enhancing the health and mental well-being of all members of the profession and I want to continue and support the work of the LSBC Mental Health Task Force.

As an experienced family law lawyer, mediator and human rights advocate, I will strive to ensure that the “public interest” component of the Law Society’s mandate evolves to ensure quick and efficient resolution of complaints made against members of our profession. Through my work on the Canadian Human Rights Commission, I learned [skills which are directly applicable to the fair and impartial consideration required of Law Society matters](#), including hearings and conduct reviews.

I am committed to enhancing the well-being of the business of law for our profession. I understand the business of the law and the unique challenges of being a sole practitioner.

I have been practicing for over 25 years and have the knowledge, skills and experience to bring a unique perspective to the bench table.

As an Indigenous person and a lawyer, I see the issue of reconciliation from different perspectives, and I will continue the reconciliation work undertaken by the LSBC. As a human rights and children’s advocate, I understand the powerful position our profession plays in our community and individual lives. I believe that the LSBC can both fulfil its mandate of protecting the public, while still supporting and fostering the betterment of our members.

Howaa (thank you).