

JOANNA E KELLY



The child of immigrant parents, I was born and raised in northern rural British Columbia (where I did nothing of benefit to society). After graduation, I obtained an honours degree in History from Queen's University (2000), a B.Sc. in Biology from the University of Calgary (2002), and an LL.B. from the University of British Columbia (2005). I articulated in Prince George for the late H. Bruce Kaun who let me spend most of the year junioring a murder trial.

I was called to the bar in 2006 and entered criminal practice with Richard Hewson (now a PCJ) at Noonan Hewson Law Office in Vernon, BC. I left practice to have my first child in 2009, and my husband Gavin Jones and I opened our own office in Kelowna in 2011 after the birth of our second child.

My practice is almost 100% criminal defence (excepting only motor vehicle matters), and I still devote the lions' share of my services to people who can't afford them. I take criminal referrals throughout the Okanagan, I act as in-custody and out-of-custody duty counsel in Kelowna and Penticton/Kootenay, and as complainants' counsel on sexual assault files throughout the province. I also act as appellate counsel for Legal Aid clients in the Supreme Court of B.C. and the Court of Appeal; to that end, I most recently argued *R. v. Schneider*, a case about suspended sentence availability in fentanyl trafficking in 2019.

I presently sit on the Interior Virtual Bail committee, Judge Dohm's Corrections committee, and the Criminal Tariff Advisory Committee.

I live in West Kelowna with my husband, my two daughters, and a large and stupid (but exquisitely handsome) dog. I am a licensed electro-fisher and a ski instructor, I almost never pay my bills on time, and was once told that I am uniquely unsuited to government.

Joanna Kelly has been a member of the Board of A.L.L. since December 13, 2022 and serves on the Criminal Committee.