



My name is Guillaume Garih, I was called to the B.C. bar in 2014. I was one of the "founding members" of ALL, back in 2018 and served on the Criminal Committee. I have always been committed and excited when it comes to ALL. Our organization's past and future successes are fundamental to the quality, and availability, of legal services for low-income people in the province. They also condition the dignity and future of my beloved profession.

The heartbeat of my practise is to represent people before courts and tribunals, most often as a criminal defence lawyer. I have appeared in that capacity at all levels of court in British Columbia. I have trial experience with judge-alone and jury trials, and have conducted both in the English and in the French language. I have represented individuals charged with all kinds of criminal allegations, from petty theft to murder. One of my cases received a unanimous, favourable ruling at the Supreme Court of Canada. That decision improved the language rights of francophones charged with provincial offences. I have worked as an ad hoc prosecutor on a few occasions, doing trial work and charge assessment. Throughout, I have also assisted Spanish-speaking clients.

Thanks to criminal defence work, I have forged an array of skills related to problem-solving and trial advocacy. These skills have enhanced my ability to advocate in other areas of practise. In mental health law, I have experience with review board hearings and review panels, as well as cases where criminal and mental health laws intersect (e.g., NCRMD, fitness to stand trial and non-insane automatism). In the area of prisoners' law, I have advocated on behalf of inmates during parole board and disciplinary hearings. Through various professional associations and initiatives, I have contributed over the years to small and larger efforts at bettering the legal profession, and others aimed at improving access to the justice.