

# KLAASSEN LAW OFFICE

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## Biographical Summary

I look forward to contributing as a member of the A.L.L. Board of Directors, please let me introduce myself. For 28 years, since November 1995, I have been a member of the Law Society of BC and of the Canadian Bar Association of BC. After graduating with an L.L.B from the University of Saskatchewan in 1994, I articulated at the Manitoba Department of Justice in Winnipeg and was called to the Bar there in 1995. My late uncle, Law Society of BC Life Bencher Ron Toews Q.C. of Smithers, suggested that I move to northwestern BC in 1995, which I did. Since 1995 I have lived in communities in northwest BC, practiced law for clients with legal issues in this area and continuously accepted Legal Aid criminal contracts here. For 23 years, since January 2000, I have had the position of the Legal Aid BC Northwest Circuit Counsel for the Dease Lake Provincial Court (near the Yukon border) and the Stewart Provincial Court (on the Alaska border). In June 2005, I moved myself and my practice west on Highway 16 from Smithers to Terrace where I have been ever since. For 13 years, since January 2010, I have been a sole practitioner engaged in exclusively criminal defense work. In my career I have been lead trial counsel on hundreds of Criminal Code offences. I have defended criminal negligence fatality, impaired driving fatality, attempted murder and many serious sexual offence charges. I have been Appeal counsel in all levels of appellate courts. A significant successful appeal of mine, funded by Legal Aid BC, is reported in the 2024 Martin's Annual Criminal Code - R. v. Lachapelle, 2009 BCCA 406. Representing Indigenous native clients is the majority of my practice. I maintain a close working relationship with the Terrace Native Court Worker office and the Terrace Legal Aid BC Navigators. Legal Aid criminal law has been the lion's share of my income for the past several years.

Throughout my career I have served in many volunteer positions in the legal profession, one was being elected as Prince Rupert County Bar Association President. From October 2012 to the present, for 11 years, I have been providing insight about northern lawyers in Cariboo County and Prince Rupert County to Legal Aid BC and to A.L.L. as a member of the Criminal Tariff Advisory Committee. For 6 years, from September 2006 to August 2012, I was appointed by the Law Society of BC to serve on the Board of Directors of the Continuing Legal Education Society of BC as the Prince Rupert County Representative. I was Chair of the Product Development and Marketing Committee from February 2009 to August 2012. Within the Canadian Bar Association BC I was elected Chair of the General Practitioner's Subsection (Prince Rupert). I was then elected as Provincial Council Representative for Prince Rupert County for 6 years from 1999 to 2005. I was elected to the CBABC Executive Committee as a Member-at-large and served from June 2004 to August 2006. I have been a member of many CBABC committees, including Chair of the Lawyer Referral Service/Dial-a-law Advisory Committee and Chair of the Communications Committee. Also in Prince Rupert County from 1999 to 2012, I was the major organizer of Continuing Legal Education seminars and Canadian Bar Association subsection presentations on a wide variety of civil law and criminal law topics.

Tim Klaassen has been a member of the Board of A.L.L. since November 21, 2023 and serves on the Criminal Committee.