



October 5, 2004 – For immediate release

As part of the Provincial Court of British Columbia's ongoing policy of accountability and accessibility, Chief Judge Carol Baird Ellan today announced the launch of an "Ask the Chief Judge" feature on the Provincial Court's website.

Through the new site, found at <http://www.provincialcourt.bc.ca/judicialofficers/thechiefjudge/askthechiefjudge.html>, the Chief Judge and other judges will provide answers to inquiries regarding the Provincial Court and the justice system. Questions and answers of interest to the public will be posted on the site.

All inquiries will receive a response, but users should be aware that the site will not provide legal advice. Responses will also not comment on specific cases before the Court, nor deal with controversial, political, or other questions which might conflict with judges' ethical responsibilities and the duty to remain independent.

Judges of the Provincial Court participate in a wide variety of public outreach activities. The Court has recently struck a Public Information Committee, which is developing a province-wide public outreach program, reviewing the Court's media policies, and assembling resources to assist judges in their public outreach activities. Requests for judges to speak at functions or participate in public legal education opportunities may be directed to the address below.

Office of the Chief Judge
602 – 700 West Georgia Street
Vancouver, British Columbia V7Y 1E8
Tel: (604) 660-2864

Contact: Gene Jamieson, Legal Officer