



Pacific Business & Law Institute

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# FAMILY LAW 2021: FAMILY IS AS FAMILY DOES – EVOLVING FAMILY FORMS

Chaired by

**Monique Shebbeare (she/her)**  
Monique Shebbeare Law Corporation

**New Date: October 1<sup>st</sup>, 2021 • Attend via Live Webinar**



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## CHAIR



**Monique Shebbeare**, Lawyer, Monique Shebbeare Law Corporation, Vancouver, BC. Monique is a fertility lawyer and wills and estates lawyer in Vancouver. She helps individuals and couples launch their families and make sure they have a plan in place for their loved ones should something happen to them. Monique also has a background in psychology and, along with solid legal foundation, brings a warm and empathic approach to her work with clients.

## FACULTY



**Jeannette Aucoin**, Associate Lawyer, Clark Wilson LLP, Vancouver, BC. Jeannette is an Associate with the Family Law group of Clark Wilson LLP in Vancouver, BC. She balances empathy and professionalism to ensure her clients are supported and cared for, while identifying the risks and rewards involved in their case. Jeannette has appeared before the British Columbia Supreme Court and British Columbia Court of Appeal on high conflict family matters. She is also passionate about new developments in family law and is one of only a handful of professionals in B.C. with experience in reproductive technology law and compliance with the *Assisted Human Reproduction Act*.



**John-Paul E. Boyd, Q.C.**, John-Paul Boyd Arbitration Chambers, Calgary, AB. John-Paul is a family law arbitrator, family law mediator and parenting coordinator. He is the principal of John-Paul Boyd Arbitration Chambers, providing services throughout all of Alberta and British Columbia, Canada, and counsel to the preeminent Calgary family law firm, Wise Scheible Barkauskas. He is a senior family law lawyer nationally known for his big-picture approach to family justice issues and contributions to public and professional legal education on family law. John-Paul practiced family law in Vancouver for 14 years before joining the Canadian Research Institute for Law and the Family at the University of Calgary, as its executive director in 2013. He returned to practice when the research institute closed in 2018 and was appointed Queen's Counsel in 2019.



**Lynda Cassels**, Lawyer, Cassels Murray Family & Estates Law, Victoria, BC. Lynda is a family and wills and estates lawyer in Victoria. Trained in mediation and collaborative law, Lynda enjoys assisting clients with the legal issues that arise during major life transitions, including separation and divorce, planning for marriage or cohabitation, deciding to have children, or dealing with the death or diminishing mental capacity of a loved one. She has a particular interest in fertility law, adoption, and elder law. Lynda has presented at continuing legal education seminars on fertility and family law topics and formerly served on the executive of the Elder Law and Family Law (Victoria) sections of the Canadian Bar Association (B.C. Branch).



**Barbara Findlay, Q.C.**, Lawyer, Law Office of Barbara Findlay, Q.C., Vancouver, BC. Barbara is a queer feminist lawyer in Vancouver who has been doing agreements for children conceived with assisted human technology for more than twenty years. Beyond her broad range of legal experience, she is actively involved in political work and advocacy around issues of oppression, including sexism, racism, homophobia, transphobia and disability. Barbara is a member of the Alliance of Women Against Racism Etc., Across Our Differences and the December 9 Coalition. She is also a founding member of the Sexual Orientation and Gender Identity Conference for the Canadian Bar Association, a member of the equality committees of the Law Society of BC and the National Canadian Bar Association, and an active member of the Women's Legal Education and Action Fund. Barbara is a regular contributor to several noteworthy legal publications, continuing legal education conferences and documentaries.



**Claire E. Hunter, Q.C.**, Lawyer, Hunter Litigation Chambers, Vancouver, BC. Claire is an experienced litigator with a broad civil litigation, public and administrative law, and appellate practice. She appears regularly as counsel at both the trial and appellate level, including all levels of court in British Columbia and the Supreme Court of Canada, and before arbitration tribunals and administrative boards. In 2017 she was named a Lexpert Leading Lawyer Under 40. She is currently ranked as a leading lawyer including by Lexpert, Benchmark Canada, Legal 500 and Best Lawyers in Canada. In 2020 she was selected by Benchmark Litigation as one of the Top 50 Women in Canada and was named as a Gold Winner of the Woman of the Year award in Lexpert's Canadian Law Awards. Throughout her career, Claire has been a frequent presenter on professional topics and is actively involved in community work including as a provider of pro bono legal services, receiving many prominent awards for her pro-bono service.



**Adrienne Smith**, Lawyer, Adrienne Smith Law, Vancouver, BC. Adrienne Smith is a transgender human rights activist and drug policy lawyer. They settled a BC Supreme Court case which guaranteed access to opiate replacement therapy for prisoners in BC jails. Adrienne appeared at the BC Court of Appeal and the Supreme Court of Canada, where they argued about the deleterious effects of mandatory minimum sentences for women, Indigenous people, and drug users. As a trade union activist, they advocate for transgender inclusion in our unions and workplaces. Adrienne volunteers at the Catherine White Holman Wellness Clinic, where they give free legal advice and notarize name change documents for trans people.



**Zara Suleman**, Lawyer and Founder, Suleman Family Law, Vancouver, BC. Zara practices in the areas of family law and fertility law. Zara has provided trainings and workshops to nurses, doctors, fertility centres, midwives, lawyers, and counsellors on various issues related to Assisted Reproductive Technology (ART) and Legal Parentage. She is a member of Fertility Law BC and is the Chair of the BC Law Institute Research Project on the Review of Legal Parentage under the *Family Law Act* (BC). Zara has widely presented in the areas of Part 3 of the *Family Law Act*, family law services for LGBTQ2S+ families, and fertility law.

She co-authored with Barbara Findlay QC one of the first comprehensive papers on ART and legal parentage in B.C. Zara can be found on Instagram @thebusinessofbreakups and blogs at [www.thebusinessofbreakups.com](http://www.thebusinessofbreakups.com)™.



**Jasmeet K. Wahid**, Partner, Kahn Zack Ehrlich Lithwick LLP, Richmond, BC. Jasmeet's family law practice is diverse and interesting, often including complex financial and parenting issues. Her practice also includes unique issues in the areas of adoption, reproductive technology, child protection, and First Nations concerns. Jasmeet appears in all levels of court and has argued many significant cases, including appeals concerning: i) the posthumous use of reproductive material and the statutory interpretation of the consent provisions of the *Assisted Human Reproduction Act* [*L.T. v. D.T. Estate*, 2020 BCCA 328]; ii) a child's consent to gender affirming care, family violence and remedies under the *Family Law Act* [*A.B. v. C.D.*, 2020 BCCA 11 & *A.B. v. C.D.*, 2019 BCCA 297]; iii) the adoption of a First Nations child and the statutory scheme of the *Adoption Act* [*M.M. v.T.B.*, 2017 BCCA 296, application

## Family Law 2021:

## Family Is As Family Does – Evolving Family Forms

Social institutions constantly evolve to reflect our society's values and belief systems. One of the most powerful social institutions is the family, the form of which has been influenced over the years by advances in gender equality rights, changing views on marriage and divorce, medical advances in contraception and fertility treatments, and the recognition and expansion of rights granted to LGBTQ2Q+ persons.

This program will bring together leading practitioners recognized for their unique expertise in the progressive areas of fertility and reproductive law, family creation, LGBTQ2Q+ rights and relationships, and the evolving form of families. Join us for an engaging day of discussions designed to inspire an inclusive and informed modern family law practice. Delegates will leave with an up-to-date understanding of the law in these areas, along with best practices and tools to implement in your practice. This program is essential for those seeking to remain current and discover new approaches to family law.

## KEY AREAS ADDRESSED:

- Understanding parentage and birth registration
- Ownership of human reproductive material
- Human reproductive material on marital breakdown and death
- Trans competency, family creation and decision making for trans children
- Fertility Agreements
- Multi-Parent and Polyamorous Families

## WHO SHOULD ATTEND:

- Lawyers of all levels advising on family law matters
- Family law arbitrators
- Family law mediators
- Government officials and employees engaged in family matters
- Family service providers
- Wills and estate lawyers
- Executors and estate administrators

for leave to SCC dismissed]; and, iv) the issue of variation of spousal support and whether re-partnering is a material change of circumstances (*Morigeau v. Moorey*, 2015 BCCA 160).



**Catherine J. Wong**, Lawyer, Saltwater Law, Vancouver, BC. Catherine is a family law lawyer and a certified family law mediator based in downtown Vancouver, B.C. Catherine has a particular interest and focus on fertility law and on working with multi-parent families. Catherine approaches her work with compassion and resourcefulness and enjoys engaging with the diversity of families and folks that her practice allows her to collaborate with and to assist. In addition to presenting on fertility matters, Catherine is asked from time to time to consult on fertility law matters by family law lawyers in the context of cohabitation or separation agreements.



**Holly Yager**, M.Ed., RCC, CCC, Registered Clinical Counsellor, Holly Yager, Reproductive Health & Fertility Counselling, Vancouver, BC. Holly is a reproductive health & fertility counsellor. Holly's primary focus is to support individuals and couples who are trying to conceive, either naturally or with the help of a fertility clinic. Holly additionally has extensive experience as a clinical counsellor at BC Women's Hospital + Health Centre working in the areas of reproductive endocrinology & infertility (RE/IVF); chronic pelvic pain & endometriosis (CPP); recurrent pregnancy loss & early pregnancy loss (RPL/EPAC); and specialized women's health. Holly is both a BC Registered Clinical Counsellor with BCACC and a Canadian Certified Counsellor with CCPA. Holly regularly facilitates group workshops, presents lectures and workshops, provides clinical supervision and consultation to mental health professionals, and has co-authored journal articles and publications on both fertility and female chronic pelvic pain.



# Family Law 2021: Family Is As Family Does – Evolving Family Forms

October 1<sup>st</sup>, 2021 (New Date)

**9:00 Welcome and Introduction by PBLI**

**9:05 Chair's Welcome and Introduction**

**Monique Shebbeare (she/her)**

Monique Shebbeare Law Corporation

**9:10 Parents for all Purposes: A Primer on Parentage and Registration**

**Jeannette Aucoin (she/her)**

Clark Wilson LLP

**Monique Shebbeare (she/her)**

Monique Shebbeare Law Corporation

- Understanding parentage under Part 3 of the *Family Law Act*
- Birth registration under the *Vital Statistics Act*
- Indigenous band registration
- Citizenship considerations

**9:45 Questions and Discussion**

**9:55 Who gets the embryos? The Assisted Human Reproduction Act and Human Reproductive Material on Separation**

**Catherine J. Wong (she/her)**

Saltwater Law

- Introduction to the federal *Assisted Human Reproduction Act*
- Ownership of sperm and embryos
- Consent regulations under the *Assisted Reproduction Act*
- How this applies to a person's own frozen sperm and eggs, frozen donor sperm and eggs, and frozen embryos

**10:45 Questions and Discussion**

**10:55 Morning Break**

**11:10 Trans Competency, Family Creation, and Decision-making for Children**

**Claire E. Hunter, Q.C. (she/her)**

Hunter Litigation Chambers

**Adrienne Smith (they/their)**

Adrienne Smith Law

- Trans inclusive language, pronouns and experience
- Trans people creating families
- Health care and consent for trans children and teens
- Recent notable caselaw

**12:00 Questions and Discussion**

**12:10 Lunch Break**

**1:10 Contracts that Work: Primary Considerations in Fertility Agreements**

**Monique Shebbeare (she/her)**

Monique Shebbeare Law Corporation

**Zara Suleman (she/her)**

Suleman Family Law

**Holly Yager (she/her)**

Holly Yager, Reproductive Health & Fertility Counselling

- When your clients need them and why they need them
- Considerations from a counsellor's point of view
- Primary considerations for drafting lawyers in donor agreements and surrogacy agreements
- Expense regulations under the *Assisted Human Reproduction Act*
- When a spouse doesn't want to be a parent

**2:00 Questions and Discussion**

**2:10 Afternoon Break**

**2:25 Three is Not a Crowd: Multi-Parent and Polyamorous Families**

**John-Paul E. Boyd, Q.C. (he/him)**

John-Paul Boyd Arbitration Chambers

**barbara findlay, Q.C. (she/her)**

Law Office of barbara findlay, Q.C.

- Understanding polyamory (it is not polygamy)
- Other forms of multi-parent families
- Understanding the multi-parent provision of the *Family Law Act*
- Drafting multi-parent agreements for future stability and certainty
- What if multi-parent families break down?

**3:15 Questions and Discussion**

**3:25 After Life: Human Reproductive Material and Parentage on Death**

**Lynda Cassels (she/her)**

Cassels Murray Family & Estates Law

**Jasmeet K. Wahid (she/her)**

Kahn Zack Ehrlich Lithwick LLP

- Posthumous extraction of sperm and eggs – written consent and *L.T. v. D.T. (Estate)*
- Addressing human reproductive material in estate planning
- Parents of posthumously conceived children
- Parentage, wills variation and intestacy

**4:15 Questions and Discussion**

**4:25 Chair's Closing Remarks – Forum Concludes**

# INFORMATION

## Four Ways to Register:

1. Telephone us: 604-730-2500 or toll free 877-730-2555
2. Fax us: 604-730-5085 or toll free 866-730-5085
3. Mail your registration form with payment
4. Register at [www.pbli.com/1664](http://www.pbli.com/1664)

**Registration:** The registration fee is \$720.00 plus GST of \$36.00 totalling **\$756.00** covering your access to the live webinar and electronic materials.

**Group Discounts:** Register four persons from the same organization at the same time and you are entitled to a complimentary fifth registration.

**Payment:** You may pay by VISA, MasterCard or cheque. Cheques should be made payable to the Pacific Business & Law Institute. Registration fees must be paid prior to the program.

**When and Where:** The program starts at **9:00 a.m. (PDT)**. Attend via Live Webinar: All you need is a computer with a good internet connection and external plug-in speakers or good headphones for optimal audio and volume.

**Materials:** The faculty will prepare papers and/or other materials explaining many of the points raised during this program. Please contact us at [registrations@pbli.com](mailto:registrations@pbli.com) if you are unable to attend the program and wish to purchase a set of materials.

**Your Privacy:** We will keep all information that you provide to us in strict confidence, other than to prepare a delegate list containing your name, title, firm and city for our faculty and the program delegates. We do not share our mailing lists with any non-affiliated organization.

**Cancellations:** Full refunds will be given for cancellations (less a \$60.00 administration fee) if notice is received in writing five full business days prior to the program (**September 24<sup>th</sup>, 2021**). After that time we are unable to refund registration fees. Substitutions will be permitted. We reserve the right to cancel, change or revise the date, faculty, content, availability of webinar or venue for this event.

**Course Accreditation:** Attendance at this course can be listed for up to **6 hours** of continuing professional development credits with the Law Society of BC.

## Registration Form

### Pacific Business & Law Institute

Unit 2 - 2246 Spruce Street  
Vancouver, BC Canada V6H 2P3  
Telephone: 604-730-2500; Fax: 604-730-5085  
E-mail: [registrations@pbli.com](mailto:registrations@pbli.com)

## Family Law 2021: Family Is As Family Does – Evolving Family Forms

OCTOBER 1<sup>ST</sup>, 2021 (New Date)

Attend via Live Webinar

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