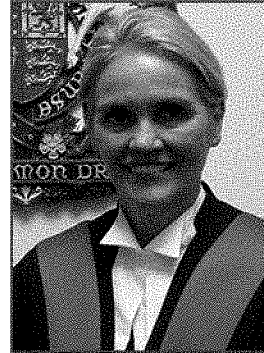


The Honourable Judge Dawn Boblin

Dawn Boblin's appointment to the Provincial Court bench was met with elation and warm congratulations from her provincial Crown counsel colleagues, who at the same moment felt acutely her loss from the office. Few have a wit as quick and a laugh as infectious as Dawn has. She has been a practical, wise and even-handed colleague and mentor to many Crown counsel over the years. She will be deeply missed in the halls of 222 Main Street and 865 Hornby Street, where she practised most recently as a Crown prosecutor.



Dawn is the fifth child in a family of eight children. Despite her assertion in jest that she was “raised by wolves”, she grew up on a farm near Sangudo, Alberta, raised by two very loving parents. Her mother was Swedish-Dutch and her father was Austrian-Yugoslavian, and both instilled in their children liberal, progressive mindsets. Her upbringing in rural Alberta was modest in some ways, lacking simple indulgences—such as running water—but she dined in the “farm-to-table” style several decades before it was on trend. Dawn was blessed to have a nurturing, supportive and affectionate upbringing, and a family that cultivated in her a quest for knowledge and education that continues today.

Almost immediately after finishing high school she moved to the big city: Edmonton. She studied journalism for one year there at Grant McEwan Community College before going on to complete a bachelor of education degree at the University of Alberta in 1986. Her effortless ability to chat with almost anyone was surely honed through her employment during her undergrad years as a server at the Earl's restaurant in Edmonton. Other diverse jobs before, during and after her undergraduate degree included, respectively, working full time in a lumber mill for a year, planting trees in northern Alberta and working as a cruise ship marketing program coordinator (she clarified that this mainly entailed handing out fliers) for Cadillac Fairview.

Edmonton lost Dawn forever after she attended Expo '86 and fell for Vancouver. Typical of Vancouverites in high summer, none of them told Dawn that it rains ten months of the year. She moved to Vancouver just one day after ringing in the new year, on January 2, 1987. She worked in the city for a few years as a server (luckily, Vancouver also had an Earl's, and it was more than happy to hire Dawn too) and, at Cadillac Fairview, as a secretary.

Always up for a challenge and intrigued by the subject matter, Dawn decided to study law at UBC. She funded her law school education by working the night shift in an administrative and financial aid role at a helpline for children maintained by British Columbia's Child Protection Ministry. In Dawn's hard-driving mind, working into the late hours allowed her time to study, while paying down her student loan bills. She graduated from UBC's faculty of law in 1992.

Dawn articulated at the civil law firm of Killam, Whitelaw & Twining and was called to the bar in 1993. Working at the helpline for children allowed her to hold out for the law job she truly wanted, that of Crown counsel, joining the 222 Main Street office in June 1994. She stayed at that office until 1998, when she took unpaid leave for a year to work in Victoria as counsel with the BC Health Care Risk Management Society. There, she provided risk management advice to hospitals, hospital staff and nurses, and received and reviewed claims. To the relief of her Crown colleagues, she returned to 222 Main Street in 1999 and remained there until 2002.

From 2002 to 2009 Dawn left the Crown again for a longer stretch to work in the unique role of legal advisor to the Vancouver Police Department. That role provided Dawn with greater insight into and appreciation of the conditions in which the police are required to work—often under high stress and time pressures. Of course, that appreciation is balanced by her recognition of the need for the police to be held to a very high standard, particularly given the amount of power and authority that is bestowed on them in carrying out their duties.

In 2009 Dawn again returned to 222 Main Street as Crown counsel, working as a trial Crown on serious crime cases. More recently, she worked for three years as summary conviction appeals counsel, before again focusing on major crime files as trial Crown. In 2017 she temporarily filled the position with the criminal appeals and special prosecution office as firearms resource counsel for Crown counsel throughout the province.

In her personal life Dawn has two loves: her partner, Nicky, and her sweet black rescue dog named Tex. Tex came, unsurprisingly, from Texas. After an undetermined time living hard on the streets, Tex has found a happy home with Nicky and Dawn, where she is truly their fur baby.

When Dawn is not busy at the office she is generally spending her time with Nicky and Tex. Dawn is an avid runner and hiker and enjoys good food and wine. Tex partakes in most of these pursuits, but Dawn and Nicky draw the line at the wine.

Dawn's main weakness is candy. One can (or, from the sad perspective of her former colleagues, could) happen upon multiple stashes in her office.

Generally she is pretty willing to share. In this respect also, the Crown counsel office's loss is the Provincial Court's gain.

Throughout her time with the Crown, Dawn had a reputation for diligence and fairness, and she brought an unfailing common-sense approach to the job. She was always generous with her time, putting everything aside to discuss a file and to provide assistance and sage advice when asked. She maintained a sense of humour and could always be relied upon to lighten the mood with her infectious laugh, even in the toughest times, working on emotionally and intellectually challenging cases.

As a prosecutor, Dawn endeavoured to always be organized, punctual and prepared, ushering witnesses and complainants through the criminal justice system in the least stressful way possible. In the courtroom, she prosecuted many complex, high profile, serious cases, and did so with grace, dignity and the utmost respect for all involved.

For Dawn, criminal law has been and continues to be fascinating, and she is one who finds the human element and the lived realities of others intriguing. She values treating others with respect, empathy and human decency, and in showing compassion for complainants, witnesses and accused persons. She is guided by a keen sense of fairness and a prudent, practical approach to all the files that cross her desk. As Crown counsel, she took very seriously her duty to exercise her discretion to steadfastly do what was just in the circumstances. These inclinations all made her an excellent prosecutor, and will surely make her a very fine judge indeed.

The Honourable Mr. Justice Michael J. Brundrett

Michael J. Brundrett was sworn in as a judge of the Supreme Court of British Columbia on June 29, 2017. He will sit in Vancouver.

All of Mike's colleagues in the B.C. Prosecution Service, and especially those in Criminal Appeals and Special Prosecutions, are delighted by his appointment to the bench yet understandably dismayed by his departure. Over the course of his 23 years with the provincial Crown, Mike gained a reputation as a kind, hardworking and supportive col-

