

## PRACTICE DIRECTIVE

### Chambers Application by Telephone

From time to time, counsel ask that an application in chambers be heard on the conference telephone. This has been utilized successfully to minimize expense.

These conference calls are arranged ahead of time; sometimes the lawyers are in one office; sometimes they are in different offices. The registry court clerk puts the call through from the courtroom.

Pursuant to Rule 44 (1), the chambers judge has the discretion to order a hearing by telephone or by videoconference:

44(1) A justice may hear an application under the **Act** or these rules, or hold a prehearing conference, by telephone or videoconference if he or she considers it appropriate.

An alternate way of saving the cost of counsel coming to Vancouver is to direct that argument be submitted in writing. Such a direction is authorized by s. 26(1) of the **Act**.

“The Honourable Chief Justice Finch”  
On behalf of the Court of Appeal for British Columbia

December 12, 2005