

Testimonials



Emily Lapper
Articling Student, Bull
Houser and Tupper LLP
Court of Appeal
2010 - 2011

"Clerking with the British Columbia Court of Appeal provided a once in a lifetime opportunity to see the inner workings of the judicial process, learn valuable advocacy skills, and be exposed to areas of the law I would not have been engaged with in a law firm setting. Developing strong bonds with the judiciary and working with other law clerks from across the country was invaluable. In addition, the research, writing, and analytical skills I learned have greatly assisted me in my work after clerking. I would highly recommend clerking with the British Columbia courts to any law student."



Mat Brechtel
Articling Student, Fasken
Martineau
Court of Appeal
2009 - 2010

"For me, clerking at the Court of Appeal was all about the other people I had the opportunity to work with.

First, you have the unique opportunity to discuss interesting and complex issues with some of the most respected legal minds in the province—the Court of Appeal judges. Teasing out the essence of a case is an unbelievably rewarding opportunity to look at a legal problem in a unique way. Instead of acting as an advocate, you have the opportunity to see how a judge examines all of the issues, weighs both submissions and ultimately comes to a conclusion. At times, you even have the opportunity to be part of that process. The insight that you gain watching this process is invaluable when you later have to act as an advocate.

Second, as a clerk you work alongside a group of other clerks who are intelligent, engaged, and interested in the law. Many of my best memories from the Court of Appeal involve discussions with a fellow clerk on a particularly difficult case. Working at the Court of Appeal was a great opportunity to get to know a group of fantastic, newly minted lawyers—most of whom will be your colleagues if you choose to practice in B.C.

Third, you get to meet the people who keep the court moving. As you begin practice, you realize just how important it is to know how to navigate both the law, and the litigation process. Working with the many essential people behind the scenes gives you a fantastic head start on how to avoiding missing a critical deadline."



Peter Senkpiel
Lawyer, Nathanson,
Schacter & Thompson LLP
Court of Appeal
2009 – 2010

“Spending 10 to 12 months clerking at the Court of Appeal is a perfect transition from law school into practice. The benefits of a clerkship are many.

In the front of my mind was the relationships I developed working with judges and other clerks. Clerking gives you the opportunity to be involved in and experience every aspect of an appeal. You read and analyze both strong and weak written materials. You research and analyze both strong and weak legal arguments. You watch both strong and weak oral advocacy. You engage deeply not only with legal arguments but with the appeal record. And you play a role in assisting the judges with the various steps that go into producing reasons for judgment. The result is a familiarity with not only the substantive law and procedural aspects of an appeal, but with what is needed to persuasively present and argue an appeal. For me, and others that went to law school outside of British Columbia, clerking at the Court of Appeal provided the opportunity to learn about the bench and bar. If you plan to practice in British Columbia, there is no better place to clerk than in British Columbia.”



Kelsey Thompson
Lawyer, Miller Thomson
Supreme Court
2009 - 2010

“My clerkship experience was an overwhelmingly positive one. It provided opportunities that would not have been afforded to me in a regular articling program including gaining a unique perspective on the litigation process and working on a wider array of legal issues. Those experiences have translated into benefits for my litigation practice going forward.

The relationships I developed with my judges have been positive both in a mentorship sense and have helped me to feel more comfortable speaking to other judges in a courtroom. In addition, the experience I gained assisting with judgments has improved my writing skills and provided me with perspective on what lawyers can do in their written submissions to help judges. Finally, I learned a lot about good advocacy watching other counsel in the courtroom. Clerking is a very rare and valuable opportunity!”



"My clerkship allowed me to spend a year working "behind the scenes" at the Court and gaining insight into the judicial decision-making process. As an aspiring litigator, the chance to observe counsel and litigants of all stripes arguing their cases in court and assist judges as they craft their decisions is an once-in-a-lifetime opportunity. I have maintained close, collegial relationships not only with my judges, but also with my fellow law clerks."

Jen Lau

*Acting Director, University
of British Columbia Career
Services*

Supreme Court
2008 - 2009



"Working as a law clerk for the Court of Appeal was one of the highlights of my professional career. As a clerk, I gained practical insights into the legal process that I simply could not have obtained elsewhere. I also made a number of close friendships with fellow law clerks that have lasted to this day."

Micah Rankin

*Assistant Professor,
Thompson Rivers
University*

Court of Appeal
2006 - 2007