

Nomination Guide

For Prospective Candidates for the 2026 Benchers Election

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Candidate Checklist

Thank you for your interest in becoming a candidate for the 2026 Benchers Election. The following information is available to help you better understand the nomination process and your responsibilities and obligations as a candidate.

Please note that the following steps must be completed in order to become a candidate for the Benchers Election:

Action	Date
Complete your Nomination Application in the Lawyer Portal. The application window will be open starting Sept. 29 through to midnight on Oct. 13.	Oct. 13, 2026
Collect the endorsement of two active lawyers in Alberta via the Lawyer Portal. You will select these endorsers during the application process – their endorsement must be complete by midnight on Oct. 13.	Oct. 13, 2026
Once your application is submitted and complete, it will be reviewed against the eligibility criteria described below.	Oct. 13 – 20, 2026
After your application is reviewed for eligibility, your candidate statement and photograph will undergo review against criteria described below.	Oct. 13 – 20, 2026
If the reviews are completed and the nomination application is determined to be in order, you will be declared a candidate for the election and will receive an email from election@lawsociety.ab.ca with more information regarding the campaign and voting period.	Oct. 20, 2026
Your approved photo, candidate statement and CV will be published to the Benchers Election website, included in the voter information package and distributed via email.	Oct. 20, 2026

The Role of the Law Society

The Law Society operates independently of the government, with authority from the Legal Profession Act of Alberta to set standards for lawyers and articling students through the Code of Conduct and the Rules of the Law Society of Alberta. The purpose of the Law Society is to uphold and protect the public interest in the administration of justice by:

- a) ensuring the independence, integrity, competence and ethical conduct of lawyers;
- b) establishing standards, programs and education and training with respect to the competence, ethical conduct and professional responsibility of lawyers and students at-law;
- c) regulating the practice of law; and,
- d) supporting and assisting lawyers and students-at-law in fulfilling their duties in the practice of law.

Benchers Competencies

The following competencies are ideal for a candidate who is seeking to effectively work at the Benchers table:

Attributes

- Ideal candidates are:
- Accountable
- Curious
- Decisive
- Diplomatic
- Empathetic
- Ethical
- Fair
- Intuitive with people and situations
- Objective
- Pragmatic
- Respectful

Knowledge & Experience

Ideal candidates either have knowledge, experience or training in several of the following areas, or are interested in learning and becoming proficient in several of the following areas:

Governance & Oversight

- Policy
- Board governance
- Risk management
- Strategic planning

Technical Expertise

- Adjudication & decision writing
- Finance and audit literacy
- Administrative law

- Professional regulatory law
- Professional discipline
- Technology and cyber security

Understanding the Legal Profession

- Professional negligence
- Professional responsibility and ethics
- Access to justice issues
- Mental health and wellness issues in the legal profession
- Legal practice management

Skills

Ideal candidates demonstrate skills in several of the following areas:

- Active listening
- Critical thinking
- Effective written and oral communication
- Leadership
- Working effectively with others

Candidate Eligibility

Eligibility to stand for election is set out in section 13 of the [Legal Profession Act \(The Act\)](#) and Rule 10 of the [Rules of the Law Society of Alberta](#). Candidate nominations will be assessed in accordance with the criteria set out in the Rules of the Law Society of Alberta and the Act. To be eligible to stand for election, a candidate must be an active lawyer, residing in Alberta as of the Oct. 17 nomination deadline.

Per The Act, a member is ineligible for nomination or election as a Benchers if at any time before the date of the election the member was disbarred, or if, within the 5-year period immediately before the date of the election:

- the member was found guilty of conduct deserving of sanction without an order being made for the member's disbarment as a result of the finding, unless the Hearing Committee, the Benchers or the Court of Appeal, as the case may be, made an order directing that the member is not ineligible by reason of the finding;
- an order of the Benchers was made under section 83(4) for the suspension of the membership of the member for a fixed period;
- an order of the Benchers was made under section 84(3) for the suspension of the membership of the member for a fixed period, unless the Benchers made an order directing that the member is not ineligible by reason of the suspension order; or,
- the membership of the member was under suspension at any time during that 5-year period by virtue of section 83(7).

The Nomination Process

The candidate nomination process is conducted online via the Lawyer Portal. The online nomination form will be open from **Sept. 29 – Oct. 13, 2026**.

Each candidate will nominate themselves and name two active lawyers in Alberta to endorse their nomination by the deadline. Endorsement of the candidate's nomination is completed via the endorsement application in the Lawyer Portal.

The nomination form includes the following required fields:

- legal name
- preferred name, if different from legal name
- member ID
- firm, organization or practice setting name
- location of practice
- location of residence
- year of call
- practice area(s)
- the names of the candidate's two endorsers
- photograph (to be used on Benchers Election website), in jpg, png or gif format (see photograph in Appendix A)
- candidate Statement, written in first-person, no more than 500 words in length (See example in Appendix B)
- CV, in PDF format, no more than two pages in length with minimum size 12 font, minimum 1.1 line spacing and one inch margins

Nomination and endorsement by two active members must be complete by 4:30 p.m. Mountain Time to be considered eligible as a candidate.

Submitting Your Nomination Application

Complete your nomination application via the Lawyer Portal as follows:

1. Log in to the [Lawyer Portal](#). Your Login ID is your Member ID number. If you are unable to remember your password or your password has expired, click on the [Forgot your Password?](#) link and follow the prompts.
2. After logging in, click on your name in the top right-hand menu and select **MY APPLICATIONS**.
3. Under New Application, select **Candidate for Benchers Election** and click **New**.
4. **Confirm** your name, firm, organization or practice setting name, location of practice, location of residence, year of call and practice area(s) are accurate. If this information requires a change, update your information in My Profile or contact [Customer Service](#).
5. **Select your District**. For more information regarding the Law Society's districts, view the District Information section.
6. **Enter your candidate statement**. Please note that the Candidate Statement cannot exceed 500 words.
7. **Upload your Photo and CV**.
8. **Select two active members to endorse your nomination (endorsers) :**

- a. Search for your first endorser by **Last Name**.
 - b. Select your endorser and click **Save**.
 - c. Search for your second endorser by **Last Name**.
 - d. Select your second endorser and click **Save**.
9. Click Submit.

After your nomination is endorsed by both endorsers, your nomination will automatically be submitted to the Law Society for review. Once your nomination has been reviewed against the criteria provided in the Act and the Rules of the Law Society of Alberta, you will receive an email from election@lawsociety.ab.ca confirming your candidacy.

NOTE: If you have not received an email, please follow up with your endorsers to ensure they have endorsed your nomination by the deadline of Oct. 17. Law Society staff will not contact your endorsers on your behalf. Information on the endorsement process can be found below.

Endorsement Process

Candidates must have their nomination endorsed by two active members (endorsers). Once the prospective candidate has completed their nomination form, the lawyers identified as the active members who will endorse the nomination will receive an email from no-reply@memberpro.net with instructions.

To endorse the nomination of a candidate, the completion of the **Candidate for Benchers Election application** on the Lawyer Portal is required.

1. Log in to the [Lawyer Portal](#). Your Login ID is your Member ID number. If you are unable to remember your password or your password has expired, click on the [Forgot your Password?](#) link and follow the prompts.
2. After logging in, click on your name in the top right-hand menu and select **MY APPLICATIONS**.
3. On the **Current Applications** screen, under the **Options** column, choose to **Accept or Decline** the Endorsement of Candidate Application.
4. On the following screen, click **Submit** to complete your endorsement of the nomination.

Nomination Assessment

The Law Society's purpose is to protect the public interest. As such, candidates are precluded by the Rules from including campaign promises in their candidate statements. Once elected, Benchers are required to govern in the public interest, and cannot advance personal or political objectives through their governance role.

An assessment will be made by the Law Society to ensure that the nomination information complies with the Rules of the Law Society of Alberta and specifically:

- does not contain any statement that constitutes a campaign promise or similar comment, or is libellous, in breach of the Code of Conduct or in bad taste; and,
- that the photograph submitted is proper and does not bring the profession into disrepute.

In conducting this assessment, the guidelines provided in Appendices A and B will apply. These guidelines are intended to assist the Chief Executive Officer & Executive Director in the exercise of discretion to determine compliance with Rules 10.1(2), (3) and (4). The decision is final.

The Law Society is not responsible for any candidate's failure to meet the publication deadline for any reason and once candidate information is formatted for online publication, no additions, deletions or amendments may be made.

Once you receive the email from election@lawsociety.ab.ca confirming your candidacy, you are free to campaign for election.

District Information

The Law Society of Alberta has five districts:

- **The Northern District** covers all areas north of Wetaskiwin. It excludes Edmonton (All areas lying north of the 53rd parallel).
- **The Southern District** cuts through the centre of Calgary and along the top of the Tsuut'ina Nation. It excludes Calgary (All areas lying south of the 52nd parallel).
- **The Central District** falls between the two parallels, excluding Calgary.
- **The City of Edmonton.**
- **The City of Calgary.**

To ensure representation from across the province, representatives from the Northern, Central and Southern districts are elected to serve as District Representatives. Calgary and Edmonton do not have District Representatives.

Representatives from any of the Northern, Central and Southern districts must both reside and have their principal place of practice in this district.

If only one candidate is nominated in the Northern, Central, or Southern districts, the candidate will be acclaimed.

All voters may vote for anywhere between one and up to 19 candidates from amongst the general pool of candidates, regardless of district. Voters may vote for anywhere between one to 19 candidates. The President-Elect is considered to be elected at the time of the Election.

Once all votes are tabulated, the Law Society identifies the Northern, Central and Southern representative candidates and determines who among them has the highest number of votes. The candidate with the highest number of votes becomes the District Representative.

All remaining candidates, including the remaining district candidates, continue to the general pool. The Law Society reviews the results for the remaining candidates and determines the candidates with the highest total votes to fill the remaining seats. The Benchers table is determined by going down the list of all remaining candidates starting from the highest number of votes until all seats are filled.

Filling a Bencher Vacancy

Throughout their three-year term, members of the Bencher table may vacate their position. In those circumstances, the Benchers will review the current composition of the Bencher table against a skills matrix. Once that work is done, they have two options available to them to fill the vacancy. They can either:

- appoint the individual who is next in line in the election results; or,
- they can appoint a member of the Law Society who did not run in the election.

In either case, the goal is to appoint the individual whose skills are needed at the Bencher table at that particular point in time.

This process to appoint a Law Society member into the available position is defined in the Law Society's Rules.

Appendix A: Candidate Photos

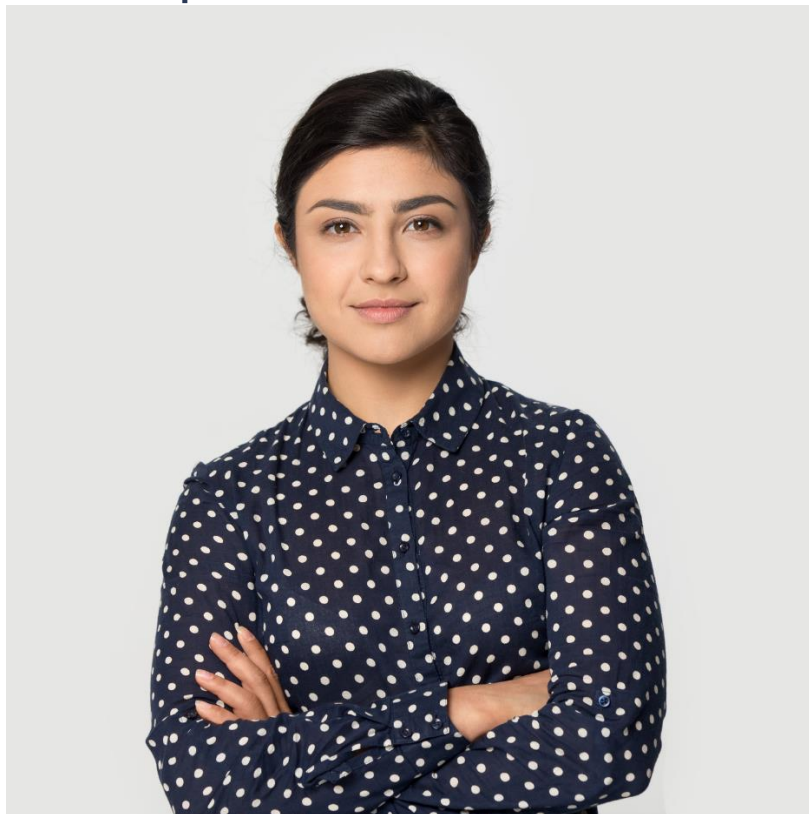
Guidelines for Photographs

- The only person appearing in a photograph shall be the candidate;
- photographs depicting activities are acceptable as long as the activity and/or photograph does not bring the profession into disrepute;
- no alcohol, cannabis or illegal substances shall appear; and,
- no offensive or profane wording, slogans or images shall appear.

A candidate whose photograph is found to be impermissible will be asked to submit a new photograph for assessment.

The Law Society is not responsible for any candidate's failure to meet the publication deadline for any reason and once candidate information is formatted for online publication, no additions, deletions or amendments may be made.

Photo Details and Example



- **Shape:** The candidate photos used on the Benchers Election website are a square (1:1) aspect ratio. The website automatically crops the image into a circle. If you are unable to crop your own photos to square, the Law Society will crop it before uploading to the website.
- **Size:** Minimum 300px x 300px
- **Format:** JPG, PNG or GIF format

Appendix B: Candidate Statements

Guidelines for Statements

A statement shall not:

- contain offensive, derogatory, discriminatory or profane language or content;
- be libellous or defamatory;
- contain a campaign promise;
- set out an election platform;
- breach the Code of Conduct; or,
- refer to another candidate.

The Law Society's purpose is to protect the public interest. As such, candidates are precluded by the Rules from including campaign promises in their candidate statements. Once elected, Benchers are required to govern in the public interest and cannot advance personal or political objectives through their governance role.

A candidate whose statement is found to be impermissible will be asked to submit a new statement for assessment.

Example Statement

I was called to the Alberta Bar in 2010 and was in private practice in the area of civil litigation for a decade before joining my current role at ABC Law. At ABC Law, my practice has primarily focused on mergers and acquisitions law, while I have also had the opportunity to serve on ABC Law's Equity, Diversity and Inclusion Committee and Hiring Committee.

I have always had a strong interest in public service and have worked in a wide variety of volunteer capacities throughout my career. I am an active member of the Legal Aid roster and I understand the unique role Legal Aid plays in guaranteeing access to justice for some of Alberta's least fortunate. I also served on a number of Law Society committees. I welcome the opportunity to further contribute to this work and serve the profession and the public interest as a Bencher.

Outside the law, I am a passionate advocate. I have served on the Board of Directors of the Autism Society of Alberta since 2011, helping this organization in its mission to provide advocacy, support, and housing for neurodivergent Albertans.

Appendix C: Example Website Profile Page



First Name Last Name

Firm Name, Edmonton

Call: 1999

Statement

I was called to the Alberta Bar in 2010 and was in private practice in the area of civil litigation for a decade before joining my current role at ABC Law. At ABC Law, my practice has primarily focused on mergers and acquisitions law, while I have also had the opportunity to serve on ABC Law's Equity, Diversity and Inclusion Committee and Hiring Committee.

I have always had a strong interest in public service and have worked in a wide variety of volunteer capacities throughout my career. I am an active member of the Legal Aid roster and I understand the unique role Legal Aid plays in guaranteeing access to justice for some of Alberta's least fortunate. I also serve on a number of Law Society committees, including serving as Vice Chair of the Conduct Committee, as well as being a member of the Executive Committee, the Legal Aid Task Force, and the Innovating Regulation Task Force. I welcome the opportunity to further contribute to this work and serve the profession and the public interest as a Benchers.

Outside the law, I am a passionate advocate for those suffering from mental illness. I have served on the Board of Directors of the Autism Society of Alberta since 2011, helping the society in its mission to provide advocacy, support, and housing for neurodivergent Albertans.

[Read Candidate CV](#)