



The Honourable Mr. Justice Grant Burnyeat

“Caveat Grantor” — I have always thought that the purpose of these notices to the profession should be to introduce a new judge to those members of the bar to whom he or she is an unknown quantity, to assist one’s fellow practitioners in their first appearances before a stranger on the bench. A lighthouse on an otherwise unknown and foggy shore.

By way of general background, Grant has been active in politics from his UBC days to the date of his appointment. He has also been an ardent and active supporter of the arts in Vancouver. He has been very active in the bar and was the treasurer of the Law Society. To the extent that one can sum up the views of a person in one or two adjectives he is a liberal and a progressive person.

He has the best of all senses of humours — he can laugh at himself.

If you are well prepared and candid, you should have an enjoyable experience in his courtroom. Grant has a wealth of experience in commercial law and general litigation matters, and he should be considered as an expert in the insolvency and mortgage areas.

He does not have much recent experience in criminal law but he does have an enormous capacity for work so that I would expect that he will be up to speed in relatively short order.

Grant has no discernible mechanical skills; it took him two years to master the twist-top beer bottle. In matters involving things mechanical, one must use small words and lots of pictures. He is a big fan of the fountain pen. These two characteristics occasionally clash, and should you see him largely covered in blue ink at any stage of the proceedings it would be a mercy well rewarded to suggest that a short adjournment would be convenient to counsel.

Grant likes working hard and having fun and doing both at the same time. He has seen every movie that has ever been made and can quote most of the lines from every Monty Python ever made.

He has been a success at everything he has so far turned his mind to, golf being the sole exception. I have no doubt that he will be a success as Burnyeat J.

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DAVID R. GREIG
GREIG, SKAGEN & COMPANY
PHONE: 583-7917