



October 6, 2020

PRIVATE AND CONFIDENTIAL

Sent by Email Only: [REDACTED]

**Re: Ward Kenneth Branch
File Number 2020-246115**

I am writing in response to your email correspondence of October 4, 2020. You appear to have concerns about The Honorable Ward K. Branch.

Please note that the Law Society of Ontario is the governing body for lawyers and licensed paralegals in Ontario. The Law Society regulates the legal professions in the public interest according to Ontario law and the Law Society's rules, regulations and guidelines.

The Law Society is unable to assist you with this matter, as you know, Ward Kenneth Branch is a judge. As such, their licence is currently in abeyance and the Law Society does not have jurisdiction to review allegations about their conduct at this time.

Section 31(1) of the *Law Society Act* sets out the following:

Appointment to judicial office

31. (1) The licence of a person is in abeyance while the person holds office,

(a) as a full-time judge of any federal, provincial or territorial court, as a full-time master of the Superior Court of Justice, as a full-time case management master, or as a full-time prothonotary of the Federal Court of Canada; or

(b) as a full-time member of the Ontario Municipal Board or as a full-time member of a tribunal that has a judicial or quasi-judicial function and that is named in the regulations for the purposes of this section.

Complaints about the conduct of a judge can be directed to the appropriate Judicial Council, the regulatory body for judges.

Since your complaint is about a judge in the Court of Appeal or the Superior Court of Justice, you can contact the:

Canadian Judicial Council


150 Metcalfe Street
Ottawa ON K1A 0W8
Phone: 613-288-1566
Fax: 613-288-1575
info@cjcc-ccm.gc.ca
www.cjcc-ccm.gc.ca

Please be advised that the Law Society does not provide legal advice or legal services to the public. As your concerns also appear to relate to a decision made by Justice Branch, you may wish to consult with a lawyer in private practice about your possible rights and remedies in this matter.

As your matter appears to be in British Columbia, you may also wish to consult the Law Society of British Columbia's website for information about their Lawyer Referral Service at <https://www.lawsociety.bc.ca/working-with-lawyers/finding-a-lawyer>.

As the issues you have raised do not fall under the Law Society's mandate at this time, we are unable to assist you and we are closing our file.

Yours truly,



My Le Van
Law Clerk
Complaints & Compliance
Client Service Centre

Please note our ongoing arrangements below due to COVID-19, including information about how best to contact us.

To support health and safety, some Law Society staff continue to work from home at this time. While it is preferable for you to communicate electronically (by fax or email), the Law Society is open and you may submit documents in person, by regular mail, and by courier. However, there may be delays in our ability to respond to communications that are submitted in a manner other than electronic. We thank you in advance for your patience as we adjust our operations to manage the dangers posed by COVID-19.