



## **AMENDMENTS TO THE *CODE OF PROFESSIONAL CONDUCT* (December 18, 2024):**

At December 2024 Convocation, the Benchers approved amendments to the *Code*. Amendments are listed at the end of each Chapter.

The amendments are highlighted below.

At December Convocation, amendments to the *Code of Professional Conduct* were approved by the Benchers, effective January 1, 2025, pertaining to *Chapter 5 – Relationship to the Administration of Justice*, section 5.7-1, Role of Mediator, to add commentary 5; and the addition of new section 5.7-2, Family Dispute Resolution, with Commentary 1 – 6. These changes are designed to assist lawyers to act effectively when taking on roles as dispute resolution professionals. Generally, these amendments provide professional guidance for lawyers acting as family law arbitrators, mediators and parenting coordinators where they are performing some dispute resolution functions along with more traditional legal services.

Additional information is provided through the [Notice of Regulatory Change](#) and accompanying [Frequently Asked Questions – Practice of Law and Exceptions and Exemptions](#).

### **Lawyers and Mediators**

**5.7** – Heading amended from “Lawyers and Mediators” to “Lawyers and Mediators and Family Dispute Resolution.”

**5.7-1, Role of Mediator** – Commentary [5] added to clarify the circumstances under which a lawyer who has acted as a mediator may act for both spouses in a divorce action.

**5.7-2, Family Dispute Resolution** – New section added providing relevant definitions, with Commentary [1] – [6] to provide guidance on issues that can arise relating to: when a lawyer would be disqualified from acting, working with self-represented parties, obligations of a family law mediator or arbitrator, or parenting coordinator, and to lawyers in a dual role as mediator or arbitrator, or as parenting coordinator and mediator.