

As a retired litigation lawyer I spent the first year of my practice in the old courthouse, now the Art Gallery, and the remaining 30++ mostly in the present Vancouver courthouse. I understand changes are contemplated to the Law Courts Inn.

Being a trial lawyer, often for people who could not afford it, meant that every moment of a trial was devoted to the project at hand. As lawyers know, a trial is an intense marathon. Often I did not have the luxury of juniors, and never the luxury of time. My clients, important witnesses, and opposing counsel (with whom settlement always remained open) were nearly always best served over lunch at the Law Courts Inn, or after 4 p.m. as the case required. This was not a luxury but a necessary part of justice. The loss of 30-40 minutes de-gowning and re-gowning, finding a restaurant, etc, does not promote efficient trials. There are things being taken away from the legal community and some new things added. But a decision to take away time is a bad decision. Efficient trials demand efficient, timely preparation, and that requires in-court lunch facilities in a public place where non-lawyers are permitted to attend.

With regards

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Retired member of the Law Society of B.C. Call: 1980