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DIVORCE ACT MANUAL T. Catherine Christopher Release No. 2, June 2026
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Highlights

- In *Narejko v. Li*, 2025 CarswellBC 3451, 2025 A.C.W.S. 5047, 2025 BCCA 398 (B.C. C.A.) an award of special costs was upheld against an appellant who was found to appeal the divorce judgment for the purpose of obtaining a share of the respondent's military benefits. All criteria for the granting of the Divorce Judgment were met but the appeal had the effect of stopping the 31-day period pursuant to section 12 of the *Divorce Act*. Her conduct was found to be an abuse of process. The British Columbia Court of Appeal declined to grant a stay pending appeal or to reinstate the struck appeal, observing that special costs are a punitive sanction where conduct of a litigant was reprehensible and deserving of rebuke.