



In This Issue ▶ ▶ ▶

Bursaries for CLE criminal, immigration, and family law conferences, E-billing upgrade for tiered rates, Mentoring pilot projects, Notice to counsel 59 — changes to criminal tariff, Family dispute resolution referrals, Timekeeping for SCAP cases, Aboriginal services program manager

Bursaries for CLE criminal, immigration, and family law conferences

LSS and the Continuing Legal Education Society (CLE) are offering bursaries to lawyers with less than five years' call for upcoming CLE criminal, immigration, and family law conferences:

Fundamentals of Mediation

Mon/Tues, November 19 & 20, 2007

Youth Criminal Justice

Saturday, December 1, 2007

Immigration Issues in Depth 2007

Friday, December 7, 2007

LSS will pay the registration fee for one conference for a limited number of tariff bar lawyers who agree to take 12 referrals in the coming year. To apply, send an e-mail to lawyersresources@lss.bc.ca, indicating your call date and the conference you want to attend, and stating that you agree to accept 12 referrals in the coming year. Spaces are limited, so apply early! Lawyers who don't qualify can still get a 25% discount on the registration fee if they agree to take 12 referrals in the coming year.

E-billing upgrade for tiered rates

When using e-billing, your tier will now appear in the top right corner of each account. E-billing will also calculate the amount of the tiered rate based on fees you claim. The adjustment line in the total account area will display the total amount of the tiers, which will print out on your account summary. It will also appear if you print out your account through the History tab.

Mentoring pilot projects

LSS continues to offer two types of mentoring opportunities for lawyers with less than five years' experience. Under mentoring assistance, a lawyer with less than five years' experience can ask LSS to authorize a senior lawyer to provide practical advice and feedback on the conduct of a legal aid case. Alternatively, a lawyer with less than five years' experience can request authorization to act as apprentice counsel to a senior lawyer who is working on a complex legal aid case. The goal of both pilot projects is to afford practical learning opportunities to lawyers. For more details, go to www.lss.bc.ca (look under For lawyers > Online resources).

Notice to Counsel 59 — changes to criminal tariff

As LSS recently announced in Notice to Counsel 59, effective November 1, 2007, we will implement a number of changes to the criminal tariff as the final step in the tariff renewal process begun in early 2005. Necessary changes to the online guide will be done and posted by the first week of November. The changes include:

- Introducing a new tariff item for "Early preparation," billable per information at the same tariff rates as "Arraignment Court Process." The new item applies where counsel takes specific preparation steps before setting a trial date, the case resolves without a trial, and no fee is billed for Arraignment Court Process. (The current tariff item for Arraignment Court Process remains billable per information).
- Expanding the Strategic Case Assessment program (SCAP) to cover all cases, regardless of offence category, where the preliminary hearing or trial is expected to exceed a total of 10 half-days.
- Increasing selected fees for "Early termination — Failure to appear, change of lawyer, or unrepresented diversions."

Family dispute resolution services referrals

When a dispute resolution services referral (DRS) is converted to an emergency services referral, the emergency services referral **replaces** the DRS referral. All services provided after the conversion are to be billed on the emergency referral.

Timekeeping for SCAP cases

If you have a criminal referral for a case proceeding within SCAP, please remember that you are required to maintain time sheets or dockets to track time spent on general preparation, daily preparation, and court attendance. SCAP cases are paid on an hourly basis, so your time records should show in reasonable detail how you spent the time for which you bill LSS. You do not need to submit your time sheets with your accounts unless specifically requested. LSS reserves the right to conduct post-payment audits up to two years after the payment of accounts. It is advised that you keep your time records for at least that duration.

Aboriginal services program manager

LSS is hiring for this new position. For more details, go to www.lss.bc.ca (look under About LSS > Jobs).