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Kamloops lawyer recognition

The Legal Services Society (LSS) presented awards to criminal defence lawyer Fred Kaatz and family law lawyer David Dundee at a recognition event held April 24 to acknowledge Kamloops area lawyers' work on behalf of legal aid clients.

Provincial Court Chief Judge Hugh Stansfield, the keynote speaker, said: "While the court appreciates all counsel, there is a very special sense of appreciation for those lawyers who quietly and consistently, but assertively, go the extra mile for indigent clients, case after case, year after year. Their dedicated advocacy breathes life into our understanding of equality before the law, and access to justice."

Fred has been doing criminal defence work for the last 20 years, and David has practised family law exclusively for 15 years and also works as a family law mediator.

For more information, see the [Newsroom](#) section of the LSS website (www.lss.bc.ca).

Clarification regarding who is eligible for family duty counsel services

In general, family duty counsel assist people who are not eligible for legal representation through the Legal Services Society but are financially eligible for advice services.

For emergency matters only, family duty counsel can also assist clients who have been accepted for legal aid but have not yet been referred to a specific lawyer.

Family duty counsel cannot assist clients who already have legal representation through legal aid or on private retainer.

SCAP questionnaire updated

Last fall, LSS expanded the Strategic Case Assessment Program (SCAP) to include all criminal referrals issued after November 1, 2007, where it becomes apparent that the preliminary inquiry or trial will exceed a total of 10 half-days. For Category I, II, or III cases expected to exceed that limit, LSS determines, at its discretion, whether the case should proceed under SCAP or remain on the block fee tariff.

For those cases that remain on block fees, counsel can bill \$75 to compensate for the time required to participate in the SCAP assessment process.

We have published an updated version of the [SCAP Case Management Questionnaire](#) (at www.lss.bc.ca, under For Lawyers > Online resources). This questionnaire includes a short-form version for lawyers who wish to remain on the block fee tariff. For complete details, see [Notice to Counsel #59](#), dated October 18, 2007 (at www.lss.bc.ca, under For lawyers > Notices to Counsel).

Clarification regarding costs

The March 2008 Legal Aid Fax contained a message from the Audit and Investigation Department ("A&I") regarding when costs are awarded to clients. We would like to clarify the rules regarding compensation to lawyers who assist us in collecting costs.

You may use any remaining general preparation time in your client's case to pursue costs. If you have exhausted all general preparation time, please contact A&I to obtain authorization for additional time to pursue costs. Before giving you this authorization, A&I will assess whether pursuing costs is appropriate in the particular circumstances.

For more information concerning costs, please refer to paragraphs 52 and 53 of the General Terms and Conditions of the *Guide to Legal Aid Tariffs*, or call Kristy Jaundrew, collections audit clerk, at 604-601-6016, or fax her at 604-682-0979.

CLE criminal law conference bursaries

LSS and the Continuing Legal Education Society (CLE) are offering bursaries to lawyers with less than 5 years' call for the upcoming CLE Criminal Law and Mental Health Issues Conference on Saturday, May 24, 2008.

LSS will pay the registration fee 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 your agreement to accept 12 referrals. Spaces are limited, so apply early! Lawyers who do not qualify can still get a 25% discount on the registration fee if they agree to take 12 referrals in the coming year.