



Recognizing the best in Victoria legal aid

On Thursday, April 11, 2011, more than 100 people gathered at a Victoria hotel to celebrate and recognize the best in legal aid in that city. Guests included LSS staff and board members, Attorney General Barry Penner, and a number of Victoria-area judges, lawyers, and administrative staff.

"The strength of BC's legal aid program is *you* — the lawyers who take legal aid referrals and duty counsel assignments," said LSS board chair Mayland McKimm, QC. "Legal advice and representation are the backbone of any legal aid system and always will be."

This event marked the presentation of the first-ever LSS Chair's Awards for Distinguished Service, for lawyers who have made significant and sustained contributions to legal aid. This year's recipients were Richard Schwartz, Zofia Tabaczuk-Porter, and the late Lex Reynolds.

"How we treat...the least advantaged says a lot about us as a society," said Zofia. "Many (legal aid clients) come to us with issues. We can't help poverty, literacy, or substance abuse, but we can show them that the law is concerned with their issues and they will be heard."

"We all do the work. We all know the tariff. We all know the clients," Rick said to the guests. "We do the work because it needs to be done (and) because it needs to be done well, and we think we can make a contribution to it being done well."

The LSS Chair's Award builds on previous bar recognition events and provides an opportunity to recognize the value and work of legal aid lawyers around BC. It is also a time to meet members of the LSS board of directors and staff, as well as local colleagues.

CLE courses

LSS offers discounts and a limited number of bursaries for relevant CLEBC courses to tariff bar lawyers with an active legal aid practice. To apply, please e-mail lawyersresources@lss.bc.ca. An upcoming course that may be of interest is *Domestic Violence and the Law* on May 26 and 27, 2011. For more information, visit the CLEBC website at www.cle.bc.ca.

Experts search database — Lawyer e-services

The experts search database (in Lawyer e-services) allows you to search for experts by area of expertise, area of law, or region. Use this resource to get the names and contact information of professionals throughout the province who can help you with your legal aid case. This database is accessible to all lawyers and assistants who are registered for e-services. We do update the database from time to time, so keep checking back! Currently, there are 119 experts in the database, and we will be adding new fields such as certified and non-certified interpreters. We encourage any expert who would like to be in the database to contact Case Management. If you discover any information in the database that appears to be incorrect please advise us at helpdesk.case-mgt@lss.bc.ca.

Counsel agents — did you know...?

You may, without prior authorization from LSS, bill for legal services performed by a counsel agent who:

- provided (billable) legal services in BC, and
- provided legal services in accordance with the tariff contract but did not assume conduct of the case.

Bill the service as usual and indicate on the billing form which legal services the counsel agent performed and his or her LSS vendor number. Please refer to the General Terms and Conditions section of *LSS Tariffs* (items 31, 32, and 33) for details about travel authorization for counsel agents, services provided outside of BC, your requirements in terms of an agent's law society standing, and LSS' referral eligibility policy.

Billing tips

Authorization for Additional Charges. Please forward these forms to your referring office for processing (not to Tariff Accounts).

Billing error? If you notice a billing error after you have submitted an account, please notify the Tariff Helpdesk and we will make the appropriate amendment(s). Please do not submit an amended account.