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**Notice of upcoming cheque run cancellation: Update — Criminal Administrative Offences; Fort Ware/Tsay Keh Dene circuit court; Family Duty Counsel Conference; Awards for Ken Tessovitch and Phil Rankin; LSS Chair's Award for Distinguished Service — April 7, 2011, Victoria, BC; Keeping the lawyer list current**

## Notice of upcoming cheque run cancellation

Please note that upcoming software upgrades may result in a missed cheque run on March 3rd.

## Update — Criminal Administrative Offences

On January 7, 2011, we completed the changes needed to our account processing system to support the reintroduction of Criminal Administrative Offences on December 8, 2010. We apologize for the short delays experienced while processing the 99 accounts that we received during this period. Thank you for your patience. Please note that you no longer need to submit separate accounts for Administrative Offences for referrals that have other charges.

## Fort Ware/Tsay Keh Dene circuit court

LSS recently sent out a fax inviting applications from lawyers interested to contract as duty counsel for the Fort Ware/Tsay Keh Dene circuit. The circuit court visits these remote northern communities three times a year (in February, June, and October). The services provided are primarily criminal law but may include some family matters. Interested lawyers are asked to send a letter to Allen Vander Linde, Managing Lawyer, Criminal Law, by February 18, 2011 by mail, fax (604-601-6195), or email ([allen.vanderlinde@lss.bc.ca](mailto:allen.vanderlinde@lss.bc.ca)). If you are interested but don't have the fax, please contact the duty counsel coordinator at [dutycounsel@lss.bc.ca](mailto:dutycounsel@lss.bc.ca).

## Family Duty Counsel Conference

LSS is sponsoring a two-day Family Duty Counsel Conference on Monday, February 28<sup>th</sup> and Tuesday, March 1<sup>st</sup> at the Empire Landmark Hotel and Conference Centre in Vancouver. Counsel from all over the province are invited to attend this event which will cover such topics as family law changes and trends, Provincial and Supreme Court practice and updates, general family duty counsel practice, resources for clients, and the FRA White Paper. Our goal is to have 100 family duty counsel participate and to date, there are 91 registered (34 from the Lower Mainland and 57 from around the province).

LSS is covering travel, accommodation, and meal costs for participants. The LSS contact for registration is Joy-Ann Lee at [joy-ann.lee@lss.bc.ca](mailto:joy-ann.lee@lss.bc.ca) or at 604-601-6021.

## Awards for Ken Tessovitch and Phil Rankin

The January Message to the Tariff Bar regarding the LSS Chair's Award for Distinguished Service incorrectly identified Ken Sommerfeld and Lee Rankin as past recipients of LSS lawyer recognition awards. The recipients were in fact Ken Tessovitch and Phil Rankin. We apologize for the error.

## LSS Chair's Award for Distinguished Service — April 7, 2011, Victoria, BC

Lawyers in the Victoria region are invited to an evening celebrating the contributions of the legal aid bar. Dinner at 6 p.m. will be followed by the LSS Chair's Award for Distinguished Service, which will be presented to local practitioners who have made sustained and significant career contributions to legal aid in BC. The evening will also include a tribute to the late Lex Reynolds, a Victoria lawyer who devoted his career to helping children and families.

The event will be held at the Delta Victoria Ocean Pointe Resort & Spa, 45 Songhees Road, Victoria. Contact us at [legalservicesociety@lss.bc.ca](mailto:legalservicesociety@lss.bc.ca) to reserve your spot.

## Keeping the lawyer list current

We have updated our list of lawyers who take legal aid cases. This list is used by intake staff. The vendor numbers for lawyers who have not billed or received a referral in the two years prior to June 30, 2010, have been deactivated. (The numbers remain in our systems on an inactive list.)

It's easy to get back on the current list: send in the Vendor Number Reapplication Form found at [www.lss.bc.ca/lawyers/forms.asp](http://www.lss.bc.ca/lawyers/forms.asp). If you have questions, please contact the Finance Helpdesk at [helpdesk.finance@lss.bc.ca](mailto:helpdesk.finance@lss.bc.ca) or 604-601-6111.