



Legal  
Services  
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British Columbia  
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# The Legal Aid Fax

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## Recognition of legal aid lawyers

LSS recently held lawyer recognition dinners in Terrace and Prince George to honour all local lawyers for their work on behalf of legal aid clients.

Scott Mulder and Martin Griffith-Zahner were the award recipients in Terrace. Scott was called to the Bar in 1988 and is with Warner Bandstra Brown. Martin began practicing as an LSS staff lawyer in Prince Rupert in 1990 before becoming a sole practitioner in 1992. The Prince George honourees were Don Kennedy, QC, who was called to the Bar in 1963, and Susie Kristan, who has been with Hope Heinrich since her call in 1998. Award recipients were selected on the basis of their years and quality of service, willingness to take on difficult cases, and community service.

Events will be held in two other communities in the next year. For more information, please see the *News releases* section of the LSS website ([www.lss.bc.ca](http://www.lss.bc.ca)).

## Tariff Renewal evaluation

LSS is evaluating the Tariff Renewal process it carried out between February 2005 and November 2007. LSS implemented improvements to tariff rates, structures, and processes based on the recommendations of the 2004/2005 Tariff Review. The evaluation, which will be completed in March 2009, aims to assess the impact of the changes on tariff lawyers and overall efficiency and effectiveness of the tariff system. An independent evaluator, Focus Consultants, will carry out the evaluation. A web survey of all tariff lawyers is scheduled for mid-November (additional details on the survey will be provided in early November). Lawyers will also be able to make recommendations for future tariff revisions. Please take the time to complete the survey, as your feedback is very important to us.

## DECEMBER / JANUARY cheque run schedule

To accommodate the upcoming holiday season, LSS has revised the cheque run schedule as follows:

- **December 17, 2008** (moved up)
- **December 22, 2008** (moved up)
- **January 1, 2009** (cancelled)
- **January 8, 2009** (resume regular schedule)

## Notice of bursary opportunities

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

- **Fundamentals of Mediation**  
November 13 and 14, 2008
- **Family Law Advanced Issues**  
November 27 and 28, 2008
- **Immigration Issues in Depth 2008**  
December 5, 2008

LSS will pay the registration fee for one conference for a limited number of tariff bar lawyers who agree to take 12 LSS referrals in the coming year. To apply, send an e-mail to [lawyersresources@lss.bc.ca](mailto:lawyersresources@lss.bc.ca) indicating your call date, the conference you want to attend, and agreeing to accept 12 referrals in the coming year. Spaces are limited, so apply early!

## CLE courses — lawyers' discount

If you do not qualify for a bursary, CLE courses are also available at a 25% discount for all lawyers who accept 12 or more LSS referrals in a year. To receive the 25% discount, let CLE know you will take 12 or more referrals when you register.

## Nanaimo Justice Access Centre

LSS is partnering with the Ministry of Attorney General to establish and operate justice access centres. These pilot projects will bring together pro bono, advocacy, community, and other government services. The justice access centres are funded, in part, through grants from the Law Foundation of BC.

The Nanaimo Justice Access Centre opened on October 30, 2008. The centre's goal is to provide a single location where people can benefit from a range of services that will help them resolve their civil and family justice problems, as well as a number of underlying issues. As clients' legal problems are often symptomatic of social, medical, financial, or other issues (such as addiction, mental health, or poverty), the centre will focus on solving problems early and holistically. In addition to family justice matters, such as custody, access, and maintenance, the centre will help clients address issues such as income security, employment, housing, debt, and consumer problems.

The Justice Access Centre will have four core services: information and self-help; family and civil client needs assessment and referrals to other agencies; family mediation and dispute resolution; and limited legal advice. Services may be delivered on-site by centre staff, service providers located at the centre, or through referrals to service providers in the community.