

## **PENTICTON FAMILY DUTY COUNSEL ROSTER LAWYERS**

The Legal Services Society is seeking applications from qualified family lawyers situated in the Okanagan area to be added to the Penticton Family Duty Counsel (“FDC”) roster. The roster lawyers will provide next step legal advice to clients at the Penticton courthouse.

Interested applicants should be experienced family counsel with significant practice experience in family law and child protection matters in Penticton Provincial and Supreme Courts.

The purpose of the Family Duty Counsel service is to provide assistance to low income family clients who do not qualify for representation under LSS’ current family or child protection coverage guidelines. The service provides:

- Information and advice about the client’s specific family problem;
- Help in preparing court documents such as financial statements;
- Representation for adjournments, interlocutory applications, and uncontested matters on family and child protection list days;
- Assistance with urgent applications such as Protection Orders, if necessary;
- Referrals to other resources, such as family justice counsellors.

The service does not include providing representation at trial or other contested hearings.

### **Responsibilities**

The roster lawyers will:

- Be available for regularly scheduled shifts on family court list days and on advice days;
- Provide advice and limited representation to Family Duty Counsel clients on family and child protection law matters; and
- Follow LSS policies and procedures.

### **Criteria for selection**

The successful applicant will:

- Be a member in good standing with the Law Society with a minimum of two years’ practice experience primarily in Family Law;
- Have an LSS vendor number and a current practice that includes legal aid representation contracts;
- Have demonstrated expertise in assisting clients with family law and child protection issues;
- Have experience and ability in providing unbundled services or willingness to do so, including the ability to coach clients in advocating for themselves and presenting their case at court;
- Knowledge of the challenges of providing legal services to persons representing themselves and available local resources including those available online;
- Have the ability to work with all family justice resources, including the Family Justice Counsellors and Court Services Branch;
- Not have competing legal or personal work that would create a real or perceived conflict of interest;
- Have practiced at the Penticton Provincial Court for at least the past two years; and

- Have a demonstrated knowledge of family and child protection law, particularly:
  - Practice and procedure in the Provincial Court under the *Family Law Act*, the *Child, Family and Community Services Act* and the *Family Maintenance Enforcement Act*;
  - Practice and procedure in Supreme Court under the *Divorce Act* and *Family Law Act*;
  - Practice and procedure under the *Interjurisdictional Support Orders Act*;
  - Excellent knowledge of *Provincial Court (Family) Rules*, *Provincial Court (CFCSA) Rules* and *Supreme Court Family Rules*, including prescribed forms.

In addition, the following factors may be taken into consideration in the selection of the successful candidates:

- Awareness of cultural diversity in and around Penticton, and of the social and economic circumstances associated with the special needs of low income individuals;
- Training in mediation, arbitration or collaborative processes;
- Proven oral and written communication skills;
- Knowledge of a second language;
- Proven ability to function independently and under pressure and ability to perform a variety of diverse tasks at the same time;
- Law Society of BC discipline history;
- Information received from the LSS Audit & Investigation Department; and
- Satisfactory recommendation, evaluation or reference from stakeholders contacted by LSS.

Qualified lawyers may not necessarily be added to the roster, as evaluation of the service has shown that smaller rosters provide the best client service. Exceptions to the criteria may be made at LSS discretion, depending on the need for lawyers in a particular location. Presence on or removal from a roster is at the discretion of LSS.

**Compensation:** Tariff rates for Family Duty Counsel

**Closing Date for Applications:** **March 31, 2020**

Telephone interviews of short-listed candidates will be conducted as soon as possible, and may commence prior to the closing date. We would like to thank all applicants for their interest, but regret that only those short-listed will be contacted.

To apply, please e-mail your resume and cover letter outlining qualifications to:

**Legal Services Society**

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