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**Legal
Services
Society**

September 2019

Legal Aid Brief

BIB deadline nears

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Reminder:

BIB deadline is November 3

Remember to submit all invoices eligible for the Bargaining Incentive Bonus (BIB) no later than Sunday, November 3, 2019.

Invoices submitted after November 3, 2019, **will not** be paid the bonus, even if they were created and certified prior to November 3.

There will be no exceptions when it comes to submitting invoices by the deadline.

The Association of Legal Aid Lawyers, the Ministry of the Attorney General and the Legal Services Society agreed on a one-time bargaining incentive bonus of 25% paid on fees rendered and invoiced between April 28, 2019, and November 3, 2019, for representation and schedule-based contracts.



If you missed the previous communications and information regarding the BIB, please see the [FAQs](#). The bonus payment is issued by the Law Foundation of BC. If you have questions or need assistance, email us at lawyer.support@lss.bc.ca, or call 604-601-6155/1-888-401-6206 (toll-free).

New family law centre opening in Penticton

LSS is launching a new family law centre in Penticton to increase access to justice while nurturing and supporting new lawyers starting their own legal practice.

Funded by the Law Foundation of BC, the yet-to-be-named centre will focus on family and child protection legal services. The centre will provide a space to train recent law school graduates in an underserved, specialized area of law as they begin to build a sustainable legal practice providing legal aid and low bono legal services.

While LSS currently sees high demand for family law services from applicants who do not qualify for legal aid but can't afford a lawyer, we have difficulty finding lawyers to take family legal aid cases in some areas of BC. The centre will address this while creating more family law articling positions.

The centre – which will be staffed by a managing lawyer, up to three junior lawyers, an articled student, and two administrative assistants – will offer free

family and child protection legal advice and representation for financially eligible clients. Income-based fees will apply for low-to-middle-income clients who don't qualify for legal aid but are in need of legal advice, representation or unbundled family and child protection legal services.

LSS is currently [accepting applications](#) from experienced family lawyers for the managing lawyer contract position.

What You Need to Know About Legal Aid Work redux

An updated version of *What You Need to Know About Legal Aid Work* is now available in the Resources for Lawyers section of LSS Online, or on [our website](#).

The comprehensive document is an introduction and reference tool for lawyers who do legal aid. An important part of the onboarding process for about 100 new lawyers we welcome each year, the publication is also a useful quick reference tool for long-term tariff lawyers.

Topics include LSS's structure, governance and services; how to get a vendor number; LSS Online; getting contracts and using LSS tariffs; professional development and lawyer resources; audits and complaints; client eligibility and applications; contracts, choice of counsel, and change of counsel and more.



If you have any questions or comments about the guide, please contact Lawyer Services at lawyer.support@lss.bc.ca or call 604-601-6155/1-888-401-6206 (toll-free).

Bursary offering – Criminal Law: Challenges and Solutions

Bursaries are still available for the Trial Lawyers Association of BC's seminar, [Criminal Law: Challenges & Solutions](#), taking place on Friday, September 27, 2019. You can attend in person in Vancouver, or via live webcast.

To be eligible for a bursary, you must have taken three or more criminal contracts in the previous 12 months, and agree to take three criminal contracts in the upcoming year. Email lawyersresources@lss.bc.ca to apply, indicating in the subject line: Criminal Law: Challenges & Solutions request. Please include your call date, vendor number, and confirm that you agree to take at least three criminal legal aid contracts in the next 12 months. Bursary applications must be submitted by noon on Thursday, September 26.

The selection of bursary recipients is at the discretion of LSS.

Questions or comments?

Contact our Lawyer Support team at: 604-601-6155 / 1-888-401-6206 or lawyer.support@lss.bc.ca

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