

LAWYER MENTORING PROGRAM

The Legal Services Society, also known as Legal Aid BC (LABC), is seeking applications from qualified lawyers to act as mentors for junior lawyers taking legal aid cases. LABC is looking for 12 mentors throughout the province, and interested applicants should be experienced lawyers in criminal and/or family/child protection law. We welcome applications from lawyers with a range of experience. However, priority will be given to those family lawyers practicing in the North and the Interior.

As a mentor, you will be expected to provide between 2-4 hours per month (up to 48 hours annually) for mentoring junior lawyers, including regular case discussions, skills development and in-depth support. The contract is intended for an initial period of one year, commencing April 2025. Provided the contract is being performed satisfactorily, it is anticipated that it will be renewed on an annual basis. LABC shall have the right to terminate the contract at its discretion should problems in service be identified or if funding for the program is reduced or eliminated.

Successful candidates must agree to have their contact information posted on the LABC website so that junior lawyers may reach out to them directly. If additional mentorship is required beyond the scope of this program, the mentor and mentee can also agree to request mentoring assistance, as per the [Mentoring Counsel Guidelines](#) through the regular authorization process.

Additional training may be available for successful applicants, on a case-by-case basis, and subject to available funding.

Criteria for selection

The successful applicant will:

- Be a member in good standing with the Law Society with significant practice experience (minimum 10 years) in the following areas, as applicable:
 - Family and child protection law, with a deep understanding of family violence and experience involving the full range of family and child protection issues in all levels of court;
 - Criminal law, with specific experience with jury trials, pre-trial motions, Charter issues, evidentiary issues, dealing with expert witnesses, cross examination, and a variety of offenses in all levels of court;
 - Have demonstrated knowledge of family and/or criminal law and a history of accepting LABC files/contracts;

In addition, the following factors will be considered in the selection of the successful candidates:

- Experience acting as a mentor or taking on articling students;
- Strong interpersonal and communication skills (oral and written);
- Familiarity with LABC's policies, procedures, and relevant administrative principles, legislative developments, and government policies impacting Indigenous peoples;
- Proven experience achieving positive legal outcomes for equity-denied clients, including Indigenous, Black, racialized, disabled, sexually diverse or gender diverse;
- Lived and living experience as a person from an equity-denied group, including but not limited to persons who identify as Indigenous, racialized, disabled, 2SLGBTQIA+, and gender diverse. Sharing how you identify is welcome and not required as part of this process;
- Experience assisting clients facing systemic barriers such as mental health issues, addictions, homelessness, poverty, literacy challenges, disabilities, and individuals affected by trauma;
- Strong understanding of issues affecting Indigenous communities, including histories, cultures, governance structures, and the impact of government laws and policies;
- Knowledge of Indigenous community groups, agencies, and available programs and services;
- Satisfactory Law Society of BC discipline history;
- Satisfactory information received from the LABC Audit & Investigations Department; and
- Satisfactory recommendation, evaluation or reference from stakeholders contacted by LABC.

Compensation – Up to 48 hours (about 4 days) annually at the LABC tariff rate (Tier 3).

Closing Date for Applications:

Open until filled

To apply, please send your resume and a letter outlining qualifications to:

Legal Aid BC
400 – 510 Burrard Street
Vancouver BC V6C 3A8
Fax No: 604-601-6195
Email: sarah.khan@legalaid.bc.ca