

FAMILY CIRCUIT COUNSEL

BELLA BELLA (KLEMTU)/BELLA COOLA CIRCUIT COURT

The Legal Services Society is seeking applications from qualified lawyers for a contract to act as family duty counsel for the Bella Bella (Klemtu) Circuit Court and Bella Coola Circuit Court.

The circuit court visits Bella Bella five (5) times per year and Bella Coola four (4) times per year on alternating months. The contract is intended for an initial period of one year, commencing with the April 2023 circuit. Provided the contract is being performed satisfactorily, it is anticipated that it would be renewed on an annual basis. The Legal Services Society shall have the right to terminate the contract in its discretion should problems in service be identified or if funding for the circuits is reduced or eliminated.

As Family Circuit Counsel, you are expected to provide the following services:

1. FAMILY/CFCSA DUTY COUNSEL SERVICE

Provide legal advice and representation as necessary in family and CFCSA matters to all financially eligible persons who have a legal problem which is within the Legal Services Society's family duty counsel coverage policy (see the Family Duty Counsel Policy and Procedure Manual and the LSS Tariffs) as updated from time to time.

Circuit Counsel is expected to maintain regular contact with clients between circuit dates and to conduct significant preparation between circuit dates. Circuit Counsel is expected to maintain ongoing communication and contact with the court scheduling office in Vancouver between circuit dates and to represent clients for matters requiring court appearances in Vancouver.

Circuit Court dates are set annually by the presiding Judges of the Provincial Court of British Columbia that sit on the Circuit Court bench. Each year there are 2 months in which the Circuit Court does not sit.

Interested applicants should be experienced in family law including representing parents in CFCSA matters.

Criteria for selection

The successful applicant will:

- Be a member in good standing with the Law Society with at least five years' experience primarily in Family Law;
- Be eligible for an LSS vendor number;
- Have demonstrated expertise in assisting clients with family law issues, including using DivorceMate for support 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 by internet;
- Have the ability to work with all family justice resources, including Family Justice Counsellors and Court Services Branch; and
- Have a demonstrated knowledge of family 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 will be considered in the selection of the successful candidates:

- Experience working with Indigenous clients and communities;
- Awareness of the unique needs of Indigenous clients;
- Awareness of local cultural diversity issues in and around Bella Bella and Bella Coola, 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;
- 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 & Investigations Department; and
- satisfactory recommendation, evaluation or reference from stakeholders contacted by LSS.

Compensation – Fees and disbursements including travel expenses are set out in the LSS Tariffs.

Remuneration for remand dates in Vancouver will be on an hourly rate (3 hours general preparation for the remand and the hourly rate for actual court attendance).

Closing Date for Applications:

Open until filled

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

Adina Popescu
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