Criminal Case Flow Management Rules — Fees for the Arraignment Process

Attached is an additional page to insert in your *Guide to Legal Aid Tariffs* (after page 18 of the Criminal Tariff). We will send a formal replacement page in the near future. This additional page is the announcement of the rates to be paid for Arraignment Court, which will be introduced with the Provincial Court Criminal Case Flow Management Rules. Those rules are being phased in over the next 26 months.

The Criminal Case Flow Management Rules are a response to the *Report of the Chief Judge on Delay and Backlog in the Provincial Court*. The Chief Judge's recommendations included specific recommendations that the legal aid tariff must be adequate to support early preparation, timely disposition, and effective high quality defence services, and that legal aid funding needs to be stable and sufficient to ensure the continued availability of legal aid in Provincial Court criminal matters.

The reason the attached tariff item is time-dated to end March 31, 2000 is that the Legal Services Society (LSS) has not yet been able to obtain a commitment from the Ministry of the Attorney General to fund the Arraignment Court process beyond that date. LSS will continue to work with government to ensure that the Society has sufficient and stable funding. The rates to be paid beyond March 31st will depend on the success of those discussions.

With regard to the rules generally, the Arraignment Court fees apply to all services related to Arraignment Court and are billable once the first arraignment hearing has occurred.

There are no additional tariff items for other aspects of the Criminal Case Flow Management Rules. Any work done in relation to the trial readiness hearing or the trial readiness certificate is included in existing billable blocks.

We will keep you advised of further funding developments.

Mark Benton

Director of Tariff