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Quality Assistance Program

LSS has had a Quality Assistance Program for a number of years that provides lawyers with a variety of resources to help them provide high-quality services to their legal aid clients.

Resources available include access to electronic legal information, course bursaries, online discussion groups, and mentoring opportunities. [Find out more about resources.](#)

With available funding, we were able to provide the following resources last year:

- 500 subscriptions to receive the weekly Continuing Legal Education (CLE) Case Digest Connection (criminal and family law)
- 165 Legal Aid Ontario (LAO) legal research memoranda
- 88 subscriptions to the Trial Lawyers Association of BC's (TLABC) Litigation Group List Servers (criminal defence and family law)
- 54 bursaries (CLE or TLABC) to various family, criminal, and immigration courses relating to legal aid matters
- 64 special bursaries to the Federation of Law Societies of Canada (FLSC) National Criminal Law Program (including some travel costs for out-of-town lawyers)
- 24 special bursaries to the FLSC National Family Law Program in Halifax (including up to \$1,000 in travel costs)
- 12 special bursaries to the CBA National Immigration Law Conference in Kelowna



Thank you to those who provided very positive feedback and appreciation for the national law conferences. We are glad we were able to support you, and we will be looking for more opportunities to do so.

If you have any suggestions, please email lawyersresources@lss.bc.ca.

LSS special bursaries for courses on the new Family Law Act

The new Family Law Act comes into force March 18, 2013 and introduces a new approach to family law in BC. We recognize this will impact all family lawyers and are pleased to offer bursaries to attend either the September 21, 2012 [CLEBC](#) course or the October 12, 2012 [TLABC](#) course. The response we receive will determine the number of bursaries we can provide. Please note that if interest in the bursaries exceeds availability, then priority will be given to lawyers on the family duty counsel roster.

To apply, please email us at lawyersresources@lss.bc.ca and indicate your course preference, call date, and agreement to accept 6 legal aid referrals in the coming year.

New Criminal Case Management policy and procedures

LSS recently posted a revised Criminal Case Management (CCM) policy (see [Notice to Counsel #82](#)). The new CCM policy consolidates existing SCAP and Large Case Management practices into a single policy that will promote clarity, consistency, and transparency in the

administration of long and complex criminal cases. The former policies were found in a variety of sources, including the tariffs and the SCAP questionnaire.

The new policy also clarifies LSS's role in the management of these cases. The policy was prepared in consultation with the Criminal Tariff Advisory Committee and LSS's criminal case review lawyers. [Find out more.](#)

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