

In this issue

A brand new Legal Aid "Fax"; Kootenay region lawyers recognized; Call for more kudos; New brochure and video; Video interviews with clients in custody; Holiday cheque runs; Holiday staffing

A brand new Legal Aid "Fax"!

Welcome to the first issue of the *Legal Aid Brief*, the new version of our long-standing tariff bar newsletter, the *Legal Aid Fax*. With thanks to your feedback, we have moved to this new format so we can email our latest news to you. You'll find the same timely articles and tips, but also useful links, photos, and other great features, delivered conveniently (and rather attractively, we think!) right to your inbox. And we'll keep all of these e-newsletters available on our website. We look forward to your [feedback](#) on our first issue!

It's all part of going green. Our lawyer e-services were our first "green" initiative and we continue to look for ways to be efficient for both you and the planet. For example, we're currently developing e-authorizations to add to our expanding list of online tools. You'll save time and paper by submitting online requests, sending attachments, answering questions and receiving results, all online. It's an exciting time and a new era for communications at LSS.

Kootenay region lawyers recognized



On October 1, LSS recognized the hard work of legal aid lawyers in the Kootenay region. **Sandra Smail, QC**, of Kimberley and **Ken Wyllie** of Castlegar were presented with the LSS Chair's Award for Distinguished Service for their significant contributions to legal aid. The awards were presented at the Kootenay Bar Association's fall meeting in Rossland which was attended by more than 70 lawyers, judges, and guests.

"Without the selfless commitment of referral lawyers, single mothers would not have someone to stand beside them in court, refugees would not have someone to help them find a safe haven, and the down-and-out would not have someone to explain the bewildering criminal process to them," LSS Board Chair **David Crossin, QC** (also pictured above) told the crowd. "And that selfless commitment is perhaps (strongest) here in the Kootenays." Read bios of Sandra and Ken on our [website](#).

Call for more kudos!

We are always interested in hearing about lawyers who go the extra mile for their clients. When you know about a colleague who, for example, was outstanding in a particularly tough case, who earned a great "legal" win, or who serves as a generous and talented mentor, please let us know. Your email about them may lead to recognition in the *Legal Aid Brief* or even consideration for a future Chair's Award.

We know you all sincerely want to help your clients as much as possible in the time you have with them. We are pleased to support you in this goal: the legal information we provide for those

who must self-represent is equally helpful for educating your own clients about the legal process. Best of all, the publications and websites are just a click away, online at www.lss.bc.ca or familylaw.lss.bc.ca.

"The family law website is friendly to users – I share it with all my clients!"
— lawyer survey, May 31, 2011

New brochure and video



Although the vast majority of you already take advantage of our lawyer e-services, there are still some who need a nudge towards the joys (and real efficiency) of this e-business package. For this reason, we've created an eye-catching brochure promoting the benefits of our online offerings and a short video tutorial that introduces viewers to e-billing.

All referral lawyers are urged to get onboard: e-billing will be mandatory by July 2012. If you would like to start using e-services, or if you know a colleague who is considering legal aid work, please check out the new [brochure](#) and [video](#) on our website. And of course, don't hesitate to call our friendly tariff account examiners who will get you completely set up, step-by-step.

Video interviews with clients in custody

Have you considered doing defence interviews via video? Read the article on this North Fraser Pretrial Centre pilot project in the [May 2011 Legal Aid Fax](#).

Holiday cheque runs

December 20, 2011 (moved up)

December 29, 2011 (cancelled)

January 5, 2011 (regular schedule)

Holiday staffing

Over the holidays, we have fewer staff at LSS. However, we continue processing accounts and authorizations, and will do our best to minimize any delays over this period.

Happy holidays from all of us at the Legal Services Society

[Resources](#) | [e-services](#) | [Tariff guides](#) | [Contact us](#)



All legal aid lawyers are required to receive this email. You may unsubscribe and we will contact you to discuss options for the newsletter.