

In this issue

Payment schedule — December and January; Immigration lawyers meeting at LSS Burrard Street office — December 11; CLE course bursaries available — Immigration Law Summit, November 27; Family Law Act course bursaries; New Family Law Act guide; AJEFCB training workshop — November 29; Crime rate trends and our criminal tariff budget

Payment schedule — December and January

To accommodate the upcoming holiday season, we've revised the payment schedule as follows:

- December 19, 2012 (no change, regular schedule)
- December 26, 2012 (cancelled)
- January 2, 2013 (resume regular schedule)

Holiday staffing — Tariff Services

Over the holidays, we'll have fewer staff in our Tariff Accounts and Case Management Sections. Staff will be available for helpdesk calls or emails, and will continue processing accounts and authorization requests as quickly as possible. However, you may experience minor delays during this period.

Immigration lawyers meeting at LSS Burrard Street office — December 11

LSS is hosting a meeting of immigration lawyers to discuss changes to the Immigration and Refugee Protection Act and processing of immigration legal aid applications. The meeting will be held **December 11, 2012 from 5:30 pm to 7:30 pm** at our 510 Burrard Street office.

Bill C-31 is expected to come into force on December 15, 2012. In response, we are changing our intake process and the *LSS Tariffs*. Our meeting will be an opportunity to discuss these changes and for counsel to share strategies, resources, and expertise.

The session will be approved for two hours of Law Society of BC Continuing Professional Development requirements. For more information, email Rochelle.Appleby@lss.bc.ca.

CLE course bursaries available — Immigration Law Summit, November 27

LSS is offering a limited number of bursaries for an upcoming CLE course on the new refugee claims process. The course is being held on **November 27, 2012** in Ontario. Subscribers will access the webcast via their own computers from 6 am to 1 pm (PST). LSS has received a special course discount from the Law Society of Upper Canada and will pay the full cost of the course and for a course materials PDF (no printed copies). The course will be accredited for 5 CPD hours plus 1 hour of ethics.

To apply, please email lawyersresources@lss.bc.ca indicating your call date and agreeing to accept 12 legal aid referrals in the coming year, and include your email address so we can send you a link. Since this course is happening next week, please email us by **Noon on Friday, November 23** so we can submit registrations to the course provider. To find out more, see [The Law Society of Upper Canada website](#).

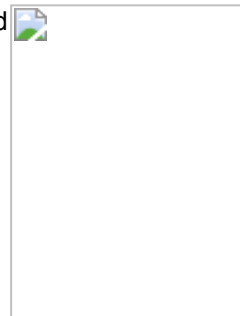
Family Law Act course bursaries

We were pleased to provide bursaries to 60 family lawyers to attend the CLEBC or TLABC courses on the new Family Law Act, which comes into force March 18, 2013. If you would like to view the video repeat of the CLEBC course, please contact us for a bursary at lawyersresources@lss.bc.ca.

New Family Law Act guide

Our new booklet, [Guide to the New BC Family Law Act](#), is being distributed to our family law referral lawyers. The booklet is a compilation of our series of ELAN blog entries about the new act. We ran the series, with JP Boyd's help, from February to September 2012. The guide is

available in English, and coming soon online only in French, and online and in print in simplified and traditional Chinese, Punjabi, and Spanish. Check out our [ELAN blog](#) for further updates on the new law in the coming months.



AJEFCB training workshop — November 29

The Association des juristes d'expression française de la Colombie-Britannique (AJEFCB) is offering a two-hour training session to French-speaking lawyers and legal professionals in BC on **November 29, 2012 from 5:45 pm to 8:30 pm**. The topic will be "Managing difficult clients and lawyer professional liability." The training will count towards the mandatory hours of continuing legal education required by the Law Society of BC.

For more information about the speaker, venue, and cost, see the [AJEFCB website](#). The LSS brochure [Is Your Client Safe?](#) (English) will be handed out at the training.

Crime rate trends and our criminal tariff budget

In the [October LAB](#), we talked about the criminal justice paradox. Here we explain our LSS referral paradox: Although we've issued fewer referrals, we haven't seen a proportional drop in our criminal tariff budget.

In 1999/2000, LSS received 37,500 criminal applications and issued 27,000 referrals. Our 2011/2012 numbers were 26,000 applications and 20,000 referrals. This drop in referrals follows the decline in the crime rate. At the same time, though, the number of lawyers taking referrals has decreased. So the result is a stable ratio of referrals to active tariff lawyers: 30 referrals per lawyer in 2002/2003, compared to 33 in 2011/2012. Our expenditures have modestly increased (excluding large cases). In a future issue, we will discuss the simplified tariffs and average case costs.

[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.