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### LSS Online and you

LSS Online, our new lawyer portal, will launch in late January 2015. The blackout period — when you won't be able to bill us — is expected to be from January 12 until the launch date. We'd appreciate if you could keep your bills up to date between now and when the system goes live so we can minimize the number of referrals we have to migrate to the new system. Thank you!

#### Learning how to use the new system

We're developing training materials that you'll be able to view as soon as you log into the new system in January (using your current password). Materials include a user guide with screen shots and step-by-step instructions, video clips on how to navigate through the portal, and one-pagers that cover different aspects of the system. If you need more support, feel free to contact us.

#### Is the road to progress ever smooth?

As with any new system, it may take time for you to get used to using LSS Online. Although some of the processes may seem more difficult at first, and the system will ask you more questions upfront when you bill, we believe the changes will eventually make your work on legal aid cases easier overall.

Once LSS Online goes live, you'll no longer be able to access Lawyer e-services. So we're taking steps to ensure we move all active accounts into the new system. Since they're not always easy to identify, some referrals could get left behind. If that happens, please let us know; we'll find the case and put it into the new system.

Stay tuned for more news about LSS Online in our next edition of the *Legal Aid Brief*. In the meantime, we've prepared some [Frequently Asked Questions](#) for you.

### JITI projects update

We'd like to introduce four lawyers who've accepted contract positions to oversee the following justice innovation transformation initiatives (JITI) projects.

#### Parents Legal Centre

Lead lawyer for this centre will be Katrina Harry. She'll provide advice and representation to clients, in addition to managing the work of a paralegal/advocate. Katrina was called to the bar in 2006, has been involved in child protection matters for several years, and has assisted LSS with several publications about child protection, family law, and Aboriginal families. She's a member of the Esk'etemc First Nation near Williams Lake and is from the Shuswap Nation. Katrina said she was drawn to this position at the centre because of the prospect of early intervention and timely resolution of child protection matters.

The centre, based at the Robson Square Courthouse in Vancouver, will assist parents with child protection issues to reach collaborative solutions as early as possible in the process.

#### Expanded Family LawLINE

Amber van Drielen will be the lead LawLINE lawyer. Her role, in addition to serving clients, will include leading and mentoring roster lawyers. Amber grew up "in the wilderness" outside Golden, and worked, travelled, and lived in a number of different countries before studying law at McGill University. She was called to the bar in 2006, has been a staff lawyer at LSS, and was staff counsel for the BC Centre for Elder Advocacy and Support. She's excited about working on a project that will enhance access to family legal services for individuals in all corners of our province.

This project includes enhancements to LawLINE services, such as reviewing documents for clients and coaching on advocacy skills.

### Expanded Criminal Duty Counsel

Leading this project will be Carmen Ochitwa, who has been practising criminal law in Vancouver for almost 20 years. She's been involved with the Downtown Community Court since its inception and is a strong believer in the importance of timely access to counsel. Carmen also strongly believes in the coordination of duty counsel's work with other services that help people deal with the underlying issues, such as drug addiction, mental illness, homelessness, lack of education, and poverty, that result in criminal charges.

The project will be based in Port Coquitlam and will focus on access to counsel and continuity of service.

### Expanded Family Duty Counsel — Victoria JAC

Margaret Payne began her work as lead family duty counsel at the Victoria Justice Access Centre (JAC) in October, after practising family law in Kamloops for many years. She holds social work and law degrees from the University of Victoria, as well as an LLM from the Franklin Pierce Law Centre in New Hampshire. Margaret says that as lead duty counsel she'll have an opportunity to influence outcomes at an early stage of a family law case. In addition, she says that being able to coach people on advocacy skills is a chance to empower clients and to help them develop confidence as they move forward in the litigation process.

Find out about the current FDC roster lawyer [contract opportunity](#).

### Drug Treatment Court Vancouver

We're pleased to announce that Debra Carpentier has accepted the position of defence counsel at Drug Treatment Court Vancouver (DTCV). Debra will replace Jeremy Guild who has been DTCV defence counsel since 2002. Her appointment is effective at the beginning of January 2015, but she'll be available through December to assist in an orderly transition.

Debra was called to the BC bar in 1982 and is well known at the 222 Main Street courthouse. She's part of the regular roster of duty counsel at Downtown Community Court, and has been circuit counsel to Bella Bella and Bella Coola for many years. Debra assists LSS as a case review lawyer, providing opinions on criminal appeal cases and recommendations for budgets on more complex criminal proceedings. She brings a wealth of experience in dealing with clients in the Downtown Eastside to her role at DTCV.

Debra impressed the selection panel with her concrete and practical appreciation of the challenges facing clients at DTCV. She also demonstrates a strong appreciation of the importance of teamwork at DTCV and the policy dimension of the work of the court.

We'd also like to express appreciation of what Jeremy Guild accomplished for DTCV. His good judgment in flagging issues, leadership in training, and building connections between Vancouver and other drug treatment courts contributed to the DTCV's success.

### December 2014/January 2015 payment schedule

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

Date	Status
Wednesday, December 17, 2014	Postponed
Friday, December 19, 2014	Revised payment date
Wednesday, December 24, 2014	Cancelled
Wednesday, December 31, 2014	Cancelled
Wednesday, January 7, 2015	No change, regular payment date

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