



Legal
Services
Society

British Columbia
www.lss.bc.ca

News Release

December 6, 2007

Sandra Sinclair providing legal aid services

LSS is an independent, non-profit organization that has provided legal aid to people with low incomes in BC since 1979.

Legal representation is available for serious family, child protection, and criminal issues. It is also available for some immigration, mental health law, and prison law matters.

Legal advice is available at most courts through duty counsel and by telephone through LawLINE and the Brydges Line (both are province-wide toll-free lines).

Legal information is available through Legal Information Outreach Worker (LIOU) services, LawLINE, plain language publications, and Internet services, including the Electronic Law Library, Family Law in BC, LSS, and LawLINK websites. (See www.lss.bc.ca for most of our publications, our catalogue, and website links.)

To contact the **LSS Call Centre** and **LawLINE**, dial: (604) 408-2172 (Lower Mainland) or 1-866-577-2525 (toll free from outside the Lower Mainland).

Our mission is to provide innovative and collaborative legal aid services that enable people with low incomes to effectively address their issues within the justice system.

Vernon, BC — Area residents can now apply for legal aid at the Vernon and Salmon Arm courthouses and at a new local agent office, at 205 – 3131 29 Street, in Vernon.

Lawyer Sandra Sinclair, the new local agent for the Legal Services Society (LSS), began providing legal aid services on December 3. In addition to doing intake, she and her staff have established a legal information centre at the Vernon office. Located near the courthouse, this office is well stocked with a wide range of legal information materials, and clients have access to a computer to get additional information online.

Office hours in Vernon are Mondays and Thursdays, 10 a.m. – 2 p.m. at the office and Wednesdays and Fridays, 8:30 a.m. – 11:30 a.m. at the courthouse.

Office hours in Salmon Arm are Tuesdays, 9:00 a.m. – 12:00 noon at the courthouse.

Sandra graduated from the University of British Columbia, obtaining an LLB in 1992. Since her call to the BC Bar in 1993, she has practiced law throughout northern and central BC.

“LSS is very pleased to have Sandra as the new local agent for Vernon and Salmon Arm,” says Mark Benton, the society’s executive director.” She and her staff are committed to providing a range of services and finding out from the community how we might improve access to legal aid.”

Local agents are private bar lawyers funded by LSS to provide services such as:

- taking applications for legal representation and referring eligible clients to lawyers,
- taking legal aid referrals (up to an equitable portion of those issued by their office),
- scheduling family and criminal duty counsel at the courts (Sandra and her staff will be doing this for Vernon, Salmon Arm and Revelstoke), and
- directing clients to information and advice services, including community agencies, LawLINE, and family duty counsel.

Those who need to apply for legal aid outside the local agent’s office hours can do so by contacting the LSS Call Centre at 1-866-577-2525 (toll free).

For further information, please contact:

Loraine Lundquist
Coordinator, Application Services
Legal Services Society, Vancouver
(604) 601-6004

Sandra Sinclair
LSS Local Agent
Vernon
(250) 545-0449

Suite 400
510 Burrard Street
Vancouver, BC V6C 3A8

Tel: (604) 601-6000
Fax: (604) 682-7967