



LEGAL AID LETTER



The Legal Aid Letter is sent by The Law Society of Upper Canada to its members carrying news of the Ontario Legal Aid Plan

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TARIFF UPDATE

James B. Chadwick, Q.C., Chairman of the Legal Aid Committee expresses his appreciation to the many members of the profession who have taken the time to write their MPPs as well as to various Cabinet Ministers in support of The Law Society's request for a 30% increase in the Legal Aid Tariff which has not been revised since April, 1979.

Negotiations are continuing with officials of the Ministry of the Attorney General.

The Chairman is hopeful of a resolution to the Tariff question by the end of the year.

THE FIRST FIVE MONTHS

Activity at the Plan's 47 Area Offices continued to rise during the first five months of the fiscal year (to August 31). A total of 96,179 individuals contacted the offices compared with 91,111 during the same period last year.

Applications for legal aid certificates rose from 44,822 to 50,476 (+12.6%) and the number of certificates issued in criminal and civil matters rose from 32,271 to 35,757 (+10.8%).

The number of individuals assisted in Courts across the Province by Duty Counsel rose by 16.2% from 89,915 to 104,519.

NEW CLINIC MANAGER

Ross Irwin, Solicitor, has been appointed Clinic Funding Manager effective October 1, 1982, replacing Mary Jane Mossman.

Mr. Irwin, a graduate of Queen's University and the University of London (England), taught for some years at Queen's before entering private practice in Toronto with the firm of Symes and Irwin. He has been a member of the Clinic Funding Staff since August, 1980, and has had particular involvement with the development of new clinics.

MENTORS MOVE UP

Two lawyers active in the Plan's Mentor Program have received Court appointments: Morris J. Perozak, Q.C., Co-Chairman of the Hamilton Board of Mentors (Criminal), has been appointed a Judge, Provincial Court (Criminal Division) and Nicholson D. McRae, Q.C., a member of the Toronto Board of Mentors (Criminal) has been appointed a Justice of the Supreme Court of Ontario.

NEW APPOINTMENTS-LEGAL AID COMMITTEE

Cyril O. Hurley, Windsor, has been appointed a lay representative on The Legal Aid Committee. Mr. Hurley is the former President of Chrysler Canada Limited.

Glenn H. Carter, Toronto, has been appointed an observer member of The Legal Aid Committee. Mr. Carter is General Manager, Ministry of the Attorney General.

MENTOR PROGRAM UPDATE

Hamilton-area lawyers handling cases for legally-aided clients are reminded that

Boards of Mentors - both Criminal and Civil - are now established and a Hotline has been installed to assist lawyers with immediate problems involving ethical, judgmental or tactical matters. The Hotline number is (416) 528-2417.

The highly-successful "Mentor Seminars" dealing with the topic "Know Thy Judge" have expanded from one two-hour session into a number of follow-up sessions due to the interest shown by members of the Bar. Future sessions are scheduled on Wednesday, November 3rd and Wednesday, December 8th.

The sessions begin at 5 p.m. and are held in the Barristers's Lounge (the one with the gargoyles) at Osgoode Hall, Toronto. There is no charge for attendance, which is restricted to members of the Bar. For more information, contact Harold Levy, Special Projects Co-Ordinator, (416) 361-0766.

DISBURSEMENTS

Lawyers seeking approval from the Legal Accounts Officer for disbursements under Schedule 7, Items 8 & 9, of the Tariff are reminded that the Plan's ability to make timely authorizations depends to a significant degree on the extent of information provided to the Plan.

In particular, lawyers should, when seeking authorization, (a) include an estimate of the total expense involved and (b) include the hourly rate required (if applicable).

The lack of such information may result in delays in authorizations of such disbursements.