

BRITISH COLUMBIA

Access Pro Bono - Civil Chambers Project and Commercial Trials Assistance Programs (UBC):

This project promotes access to justice in BC by providing and fostering quality pro bono legal services for people and non-profit organizations of limited means, in pursuit of creating a justice system in which having limited means is not a barrier to obtaining quality legal services. PBSC volunteers assist lawyers with pre-trial documents and legal research.

Atira Women's Resource Society (UBC): Atira is a non-profit organization that aims to end violence against women and children by providing direct services as well as working to increase awareness and education of the problem. PBSC volunteers perform intake and assistance to clients and provide legal research where required.

Legal Services Society – LiveHelp (UBC and U Vic): The Legal Services Society (LSS) is a non-profit organization created by the LSS Act in 1979 to provide legal information, advice, and representation services to people with low incomes. PBSC volunteers participate in the LiveHelp Project, an instant messaging service that the LSS has added to their Family Law Website (FLWS) so clients can ask questions and receive legal information online regarding family law issues in general as well as how to access information on the FLWS in particular. Students provide remote online support to staff at LiveHelp and research support to update, revise and continue to expand the Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ) information database.

Prisoner's Legal Services – Disciplinary Hearing Project (UBC): Prisoners' Legal Services provides legal services to federal and provincial prisoners in B.C., as well as to parolees. They assist in transfers, segregation, disciplinary charges, parole matters, and sentence calculations. PBSC volunteers participate in hearings, including performing preliminary legal research, witness preparation, examination, and cross-examination of witnesses and oral submissions.

Vancouver Island Human Rights Coalition (VIHRC) (U Vic): The Vancouver Island Human Rights Coalition is a non-profit community organization with a mission to promote and strengthen local human rights in BC through advocacy, research, education, and by connecting people with resources. PBSC volunteers participate in client intake and handling files, ranging from researching specific issues to participating in client interviewing to drafting complaints for the BC Human Rights Tribunal.

Together Against Poverty Society (TAPS) (U Vic): TAPS is a not-for-profit organization in Victoria providing free, face-to-face legal advocacy for people with income assistance, disability benefits and tenancy issues. PBSC volunteers provide legal information to tenants about the BC Residential Tenancy Act and other applicable legislation, and assist lawyers with legal advocacy on behalf of clients at Residential Tenancy Branch dispute resolution hearings.

Seniors Entitlement Service (U Vic): The Seniors' Entitlement Service assists senior clients with housing matters pension matters, loss of drivers licenses, business and contract matters, abuse of any kind, police entanglements, government issues and health and social services. PBSC volunteers conduct legal research for client files and help provide legal information to clients.

Action Committee of People with Disabilities (ACPD): The Action Committee of People with Disabilities provides people with disabilities with free information, educational materials, and other services concerning the rights and responsibilities of disabled individuals. These include, but are not limited to, services offered by the Ministry of Housing and Social Development and other governmental institutions. PBSC volunteers provide information and support to clients seeking reconsiderations or appeals of denied government benefits, and help to develop a self-help advocacy manual for clients to help with common applications.

ALBERTA

Civil Claims Duty Counsel Project (CCDC) (Calgary & Edmonton): PBSC partnered two years ago with Pro Bono Law Alberta (PBLA) on Alberta's first small claims court duty counsel project. The Civil Claims Duty Counsel Project (CCDC) is designed to provide volunteer duty counsel and law students with the opportunity to assist low-income individuals who are self-represented with small claims matters. PBSC volunteers assist with intake, provide procedural information to litigants, assist with forms, provide enforcement information and help prepare litigants for the next step in their trial.

Family Law: Calgary Emergency Protection Order Project: This project serves unrepresented, low-income Albertans who require emergency protection orders as a result of domestic disputes. PBSC volunteers work under the supervision of Legal Aid Duty Counsel, assisting with client intake at the courthouse, interviewing clients, assessing requests for an emergency protection order, and completing the Order form for review by the lawyer. By helping manage the workload for the staff, students increase the number of clients who can be served.

Newcomers Project (Calgary): This project is designed to serve low-income newcomers to Alberta. PBLA has developed an Immigration Clinic using volunteer lawyers and PBSC law student volunteers. The model involves outreach to various communities by way of accessing immigrant-serving agencies in their communities. The Centre for Newcomers (CFN) hosts the clinic. Family Law Office (FLO) staff volunteer at the clinic to provide family law advice as an additional service.

Human Rights Project (Calgary): This project is designed to serve unrepresented, low-income Albertans in their complaints before the Human Rights Commission. Under the supervision of PBLA, student volunteers serve Albertans who need assistance with the complaints process. PBSC volunteers interview potential clients and prepare a brief outline of the issues for PBLA. PBLA then finds lawyers through their Volunteer Lawyer Services roster to take charge of the files and direct the students in legal research relating to the file.

Calgary Innocence Project (Calgary): This project is designed to support and exonerate wrongfully convicted Albertans. PBSC volunteers research possible wrongful convictions under the direction of experienced Calgary criminal lawyers and assist in the development of comprehensive intake procedures for the project.

Saskatchewan

PBSC Wills Project: PBSC student volunteers work with volunteer lawyers to draft wills and powers of attorney for low-income clients. Students conduct screening interviews, provide legal information to clients, receive instructions from clients and draft the documents. PBSC Saskatoon partnered with the Saskatoon Food Bank & Learning Centre, which, through its Volunteer Income Tax Program, provides PBSC with referrals to clients who are over the age of 65.

CLASSIC Legal Clinic: PBSC volunteers participate in several projects through CLASSIC. For the Low Income Families clinic, low income clients receive summary legal advice from volunteer practicing lawyers during half hour appointments. Students assist the lawyers by taking notes during the interviews. Volunteers also participate in a walk-in clinic in which students, under the supervision of a lawyer, provide clients with legal information and basic legal services. Students provide client assistance including drafting correspondence and court documents, legal research and writing, and representing clients at court and in hearings. Finally, through the Family Advice Legal Clinic, low income clients receive summary legal advice from volunteer practicing lawyers during half hour appointments, and students assist with the completion of family law documents for self-represented low-income clients.

Manitoba

Community Legal Education Assistance (CLEA): Community Legal Education Association is a charitable organization that provides Manitobans with information about the law through several services. PBSC volunteers provide legal information to those needing assistance, in response to questions that have been pre-screened by staff.

Legal Help Centre: Legal Help Centre works in partnership with the community to increase access to legal and social service systems for disadvantaged community members by providing referrals, legal help and public legal education and information. PBSC volunteers assist with the centre's intake, provide research for volunteer lawyers and interview clients in several legal areas, including family law.

NorWest Co-op Community Health: A Woman's Place: A Woman's Place Domestic Violence Support and Legal Services provides supportive counselling and legal services for women who have exited/are exiting an abusive relationship. PBSC volunteers provide information to women on family law issues and other legal issues related to domestic violence.

Ontario

PBSC at Law Help Ontario (Osgoode, Toronto, Ottawa): PBSC volunteers provide unrepresented civil litigants with legal information and support. While at the Law Help Centres, students are supervised by and assist duty counsel volunteer lawyers. This project enables PBSC volunteers to gain intensive exposure to the practice of law, including client interviewing

and management, and hands-on experience in civil litigation. The project has also developed a data collection system, in order to measure the impact of our students at Law Help Ontario.

Small Claims Court Project (SCCP) (Western): PBSC volunteers at Western University Law School assist unrepresented Small Claims litigants in the completion of court documents under the supervision of volunteer lawyer mentors. Students, under the supervision of lawyers, provide one-on-one form filling assistance, procedural information, general guidelines and other legal information related to the Small Claims Court Process.

Family Law Project (Windsor, Western, Osgoode, UofT, Queen's, Ottawa): PBSC's multiple award-winning Family Law Project (FLP) assists litigants who are unable to afford the services of a lawyer or legal representative at family courts across the country. PBSC student volunteers help thousands of unrepresented litigants fill out forms, prepare documents for submission to the court, learn about court procedures and the family law system, and connect with additional legal resources in their area.

Eviction Prevention Project (Western): The purpose of this project is to assist low-income renters facing eviction proceedings. Upper-year law students represent clients, helping them to stay in their homes. This project enables students to take a client file from inception to hearing, learning valuable client management, interview, and advocacy skills along the way.

Medico-Legal Society of Toronto Health Law Advocacy Project (Osgoode, Toronto): As part of this project, PBSC volunteers work in teams to represent unrepresented complainants before the Health Professions Appeals and Review Board (HPARB). The students meet with a client, prepare short written arguments for the Board, and appear before the Board at the hearing. They receive guidance from both a legal mentor and a physician mentor.

Tax Advocacy Project (Toronto): PBSC partners with the Toronto Tax Department of Dentons in response to the significant number of unrepresented appellants appearing before the Tax Court of Canada. The project enables law students, under the careful supervision of Dentons tax litigators, to gain practical experience representing individual, low-income taxpayers before the TCC. Working in teams to represent appellants in the informal procedure (claims under \$25,000), the students meet with their clients, gather evidence, prepare their arguments, and appear before the Court.

PBSC Wills Project (Toronto, Osgoode): The Wills Project is a longstanding PBSC project run in partnership between the PBSC chapters of the University of Toronto and Osgoode Hall Law Schools and Basman Smith LLP. PBSC student volunteers work with volunteer lawyers to draft wills and powers of attorney for low-income clients. Students conduct screening interviews, provide legal information to clients, receive instructions from clients, and draft the documents. As part of the project, students also deliver Public Legal Education (PLE) workshops.

Immigration and Refugee Detention Centre (IRDC) Project (Osgoode, Toronto): This project is run with the assistance of the UNHCR. Students go in teams of two to four provincial

detention centres to present to detainees once each month on the immigration and refugee law process in Canada. Through this project, students gain first-hand exposure to correctional facilities and immigration/refugee law enabling them to enter the profession with experience in this area of law, and detainees benefit from gaining legal information about the immigration and refugee process to which they are subject.

Quebec

Le Centre de justice de proximité du Grand Montréal (CJPGM) (UdeM, UQAM): Le Centre de justice de proximité is one of three new pro bono legal centres in Québec that were launched in 2011 through a partnership between the Québec Ministry of Justice, Pro Bono Québec, le Barreau du Québec and la Chambre des notaires du Québec. The purpose of this project is to assist all Greater Montreal residents, regardless of their income or the legal nature of their problem, to access legal information and support. PBSC volunteers assist clients by providing legal information and referrals and filling out court forms. Students also assist legal counsel in other tasks related to housing, family, criminal, immigration, and refugee law.

Tax Advocacy Project (UdeM, McGill, Sherbrooke): PBSC partners with Dentons to provide assistance to unrepresented appellants appearing before the Tax Court of Canada. The project enables law students, under the careful supervision of Dentons tax litigators, to gain practical experience representing individual, low-income taxpayers before the TCC. Working in teams to represent appellants in the informal procedure (claims under \$25,000), students meet with their clients, gather evidence, prepare their arguments, and appear before the Court.

PBSC Wills Project (UdeM, McGill, UQAM, Laval, Sherbrooke): The Wills Project is a longstanding PBSC project, whose purpose is to help seniors access information about drafting Wills and Testaments, as well as assisting with the drafting of a client's Will. The project enables students to learn valuable client interview and management skills, while giving students the opportunity to apply their knowledge outside of a classroom setting.

New Brunswick

Family Law Project (UNB, Moncton): PBSC's multiple award-winning Family Law Project (FLP) assists litigants who are unable to afford the services of a lawyer or legal representative at family courts across the country. PBSC student volunteers help thousands of unrepresented litigants fill out forms, prepare documents for submission to the court, learn about court procedures and the family law system, and connect with additional legal resources in their area.

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Nova Scotia

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