

HINTS AND TIPS FROM THE PROTHONOTARY - REGISTRAR

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This is my regular information piece containing practical tips and information relating to the Supreme Court here in Halifax and the Court of Appeal.

COURT OF APPEAL

- 1.** Updated information and application forms are located on the courts website relative to applications for the use of cameras in the Nova Scotia Court of Appeal.

SUPREME COURT

- 1.** As Prothonotary I have been directed by the Bench Civil Procedure Rule Committee to no longer accept for filing at the Court Administration office Offers to Settle being made pursuant to Civil Procedure Rule 41A. The committee has taken the position that the Civil Procedure Rule itself does not require the filing with the court of an Offer to Settle. I will be returning to counsel all Offers to Settle which were filed with the court since January 1, 2003.
- 2.** At the March 6, 2003 Supreme Court Liaison Subcommittee (Civil) meeting the Bench members reminded counsel that unsolicited letters to judges are not appropriate. Counsel are to refrain from writing to judges on an 'unsolicited' basis. For example, where counsel cannot agree or decide upon the form of an order, an application before the court to finalize the form of the order is the appropriate forum to resolve the dispute between counsel rather than writing to the judge. Writing directly to a judge is permissible where all counsel involved in the case agree collectively to send the letter and have endorsed their consent on the letter to be sent to the judge.

- 3.** Since January, 2003, with respect to criminal matters, we have established a number of criminal teams of 5 judges each. The teams will rotate every three months - thus during a three month period one team of 5 judges will handle all criminal jury and judge alone trials as well as crownside and any summary conviction appeals. This approach will result in 5 judges, during a three month period, handling all criminal matters on the court docket.

A.M.B.