

The FREE LEGAL CLINIC

at the
Law Courts in Halifax

1815 Upper Water St.
Halifax, Nova Scotia
B3J 1S7

For Supreme Court matters
902 424-3690

For Court of Appeal matters
902 424-6937

There is more information about the Free
Legal Clinic on the Courts of Nova Scotia
website:

http://courts.ns.ca/Self_Reps/NSCA-NSSC_Free_Legal_Clinic.htm

The Nova Scotia Access To Justice
Co-ordinating Committee wishes to
thank the volunteer lawyers and
their Halifax area law firms for their
enthusiasm and support.

Blois, Nickerson & Bryson

Merrick Jamieson Sterns Washington &
Mahody

Boyne Clarke

Stewart McKelvey

Wickwire Holm

The Committee notes that the
Province's legal professionals
already devote a significant amount
of their work hours to providing free
legal services to disadvantaged
Nova Scotians. Without this
additional effort, the Free Legal
Clinic would not exist.

The Co-ordinating Committee also
appreciates the contributions of the
law students at Dalhousie
University's Schulich School of Law
through "Pro Bono Students
Canada".

Going To Court? Need Help?



Get information and advice in
private, one-hour sessions
with a practicing lawyer

Free Legal Clinic

Halifax Law Courts
1815 Upper Water Street

WHO IT IS FOR?

The Free Legal Clinic is for people who are planning to take their legal problems to court, have already started a legal action, or are already in court but have little or no experience with the court process. The Clinic is not “needs-based”. Your income has nothing to do with whether or not you qualify for its services.

KINDS OF LEGAL ISSUES

The clinic provides information and advice on civil law matters before the Supreme Court or Court of Appeal. It does not deal with matters of criminal law in either Court. Similar services (Duty Counsel) are available in most courthouses.

Family Law matters (except child protection appeals) going before the Court of Appeal qualify but not those in Supreme Court Family Division (similar help is already provided by Nova Scotia Legal Aid in the Supreme Court Family Division).

If you feel your situation may qualify you to get help from the Free Legal Clinic, you should make an appointment as early in the court process as possible.

HOW TO APPLY

Applications and appointments can be arranged in person at the administration office of the Halifax Law Courts on Upper Water Street. Ask for the Prothonotary of the Supreme Court or the Registrar of the Court of Appeal.

This can also be done by phone:

- for Supreme Court matters:
902 424-3690
- for Court of Appeal matters:
902 424-6937

Judges, lawyers and others in the Province’s justice system are aware of this free service and may refer you to the Clinic early in the court process or at any point during your time in court.

WHEN IT IS OPEN

The clinic is open every Thursday morning, each week, except on holidays (check with the court administration office).

The private one-hour sessions are held between 9:00 AM and 1:00 PM
(by appointment only).

THE VOLUNTEER LAWYER CAN/CANNOT

THE LAWYER CAN:

- Provide you with general information on the Rules of Civil Procedure and Courtroom Etiquette.
- Coach you on how to complete court forms.
- Coach you to be able to identify legal issues.
- Coach you to identify strengths and weaknesses in your case.
- Provide coaching and advice based on the information you provide.

THE LAWYER SOMETIMES CAN:

- Help you draft court forms or other documents.

THE LAWYER CANNOT:

- Replicate the quantity or quality of assistance you receive from a lawyer you retain privately.
- Commission or notarize documents for you.
- Assist you with legal problems that are unrelated to services the Free Legal Clinic provides.
- Serve or accept service of court documents for you.
- Predict decisions judges will make. Take responsibility for the information in any court forms or documents you prepare.