

# The FREE LEGAL CLINIC

at the  
Law Courts in Halifax

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

To make an appointment by  
phone, call the Legal Clinic at  
902-424-6840 or by email at  
[hfxfreelegalclinic@courts.ns.ca](mailto:hfxfreelegalclinic@courts.ns.ca)

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

<https://www.courts.ns.ca/resources/public/free-legal-clinics>

The Nova Scotia Access to Justice  
Co-ordinating Committee (A2JCC)  
wishes to thank the volunteer  
lawyers and their Halifax area law  
firms for their enthusiasm and  
support of this initiative.

Blois, Nickerson & Bryson

Merrick Jamieson Sterns Washington &  
Mahody

Boyne Clarke

Stewart McKelvey

Wickwire Holm

The A2JCC 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 A2JCC 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 Court 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.

**To make an appointment by phone, call the Legal Clinic at 902-424-6840 or by email at [HFXfreelegalclinic@courts.ns.ca](mailto:HFXfreelegalclinic@courts.ns.ca)**

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 most Thursday mornings, except on holidays (check with the Free Legal Clinic).

The private one-hour sessions are held between 8:30 AM and 12:30 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.