

# **WESTERN CANADA SOCIETY TO ACCESS JUSTICE**

*A Non-Profit Charitable Society (Reg. # 87068 4123 RR0001)*

## **CODE OF CONDUCT**

### **A. GENERAL**

All persons performing functions for or acting on behalf of Access Justice (including directors, employees and volunteers) must in all circumstances when acting as such conduct themselves with dignity and in accordance with the highest standards of integrity, ethics and competence.

All such persons will at all times strive to maintain and improve their competence.

Access Justice and all persons performing functions for it or acting on its behalf must at all times comply with the provisions of the Society Act (British Columbia) and all other laws that apply to it or them when acting as such. Lawyers advising members of the public in facilities or programmes organized or sponsored by Access Justice must in doing so observe the provisions of the Professional Conduct Handbook of the Law Society of British Columbia.

### **B. FAIR DEALING WITH CLIENTS.**

1. Access Justice and its directors, employees, and volunteers must at all times deal fairly with all clients.
2. Lawyers advising members of the public in facilities or programmes organized or sponsored by Access Justice must:
  - (a) disclose to clients any circumstance which could reasonably be expected to impair their ability to render unbiased and objective advice or decisions; and
  - (b) observe the provisions of the Professional Conduct Handbook of the Law Society of British Columbia.

### **C. CONFIDENTIALITY AND PRIVACY**

Access Justice and its directors, employees and volunteers must take all necessary steps to ensure that:

1. information communicated by or on behalf of clients is held in confidence and protected from disclosure; and
2. “personal information”, as defined in the “Personal Information Protection Act” (British Columbia) is protected in the manner and to the extent provided in that Act.

### **D. MEDIA RELATIONS**

Directors, employees and volunteers and persons performing functions on behalf of Access Justice must not provide statements to the media or address matters of public debate on behalf of Access Justice unless they have prior authorization to do so.

\* The Code of Conduct was formally adopted by Access Justice on the 25<sup>th</sup> day of October, 2007.