

THE HONOURABLE DONALD I. BRENNER
CHIEF JUSTICE

Telephone: (604) 660-2761

Fax: (604) 660-0752

E-Mail: Donald.Brenner@courts.gov.bc.ca



THE SUPREME COURT
OF BRITISH COLUMBIA

THE LAW COURTS
800 SMITHE STREET
VANCOUVER, B. C.
V6Z 2E1

January 27, 2005

TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN:

Re: Western Canada Access to Justice Society

I am pleased to provide this letter expressing my unqualified support for the pro bono project of the Western Canada Access to Justice Society. From its beginnings only a few years ago, the Society has established the delivery of pro bono legal services to the people of British Columbia at a remarkable level.

I understand the goal of the Society has been to provide at least 95% of British Columbians with legal services from Pro Bono clinics within reasonable driving distance. It now has over 52 operating clinics in the province and it expects to achieve its goal by the end of February 2005. Achieving this goal has only been made possible because of the commitment of the members of the BC Bar, over 430 of whom are regularly volunteering their time and expertise at these clinics. I and my judicial colleagues are most grateful to the members of the Bar as well as the many other contributors who have brought about this success.

Of note is that the program enables legal advice to be delivered pro bono while at all times allowing the lawyers to maintain professional standards of service. The clinics are advising over 535 clients per month. I am particularly gratified that with the assistance and co-operation of Court Services, the Society has opened clinics in the Vancouver Courthouse at 800 Smithe Street where it now has approximately 10 lawyer sessions per week. Many of these clinics are in specialized fields of the law such as personal injury, bankruptcy and family law.

I would like to encourage lawyer volunteers to continue to help at the clinics and/or to assist the Society financially. The Society is supported almost exclusively by the financial contributions of lawyers. I would also encourage agencies and volunteers to help the Society's administration of its clinic. It is a tribute to the many caring persons who help the Society that it has made such remarkable progress and achieved such success on such a low budget.

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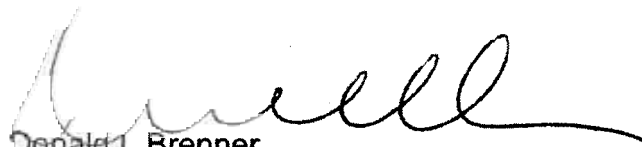
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I understand that the Law Society of British Columbia and the Canadian Bar Association support this program. Our court will be continuing its efforts to do everything we can to assist in reducing the number of litigants who are forced to appear in our court without legal representation.

Once again I would like to express my warmest appreciation and congratulations to the Society, the members of the BC Bar and to all those who have enabled us to make such progress in making legal services available to those British Columbians in need on a pro bono basis.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "D. Brenner", written in a cursive style.

Donald I. Brenner,
Chief Justice