



Call for Articling Applications

Welcome to the Everyone Legal Clinic — a BC-wide and first-of-its-kind public interest law incubator. Operated by Access Pro Bono BC, the Clinic will launch in May 2022 as part of the Law Society of BC's Innovation Sandbox. It will train and support new generations of lawyers, articling students and notaries in offering a full range of free and affordable legal services to everyone in BC—wherever they're located.

In January 2022, the Everyone Legal Clinic will accept 15 law graduates to begin articling in May 2022, and another 10 law graduates to begin articling in September 2022.

The Clinic will:

1. Increase access to affordable and high quality legal services in all BC communities;
2. Increase professional capacity for public interest legal service throughout BC;
3. Provide new generations of BC legal service providers with the substantive knowledge and practical skills required to thrive in highly adaptive forms of public-minded legal practice;
4. Improve equity, diversity, working conditions and quality of education in BC's lawyer and notary training systems, and reduce unmet need for articling positions in BC;
5. Promote new virtual, fixed-fee and modular forms of legal practice.

What is a public interest law incubator?

Law incubators provide lawyers, articling students and notaries with the training, mentorship, resources, and client referrals needed to launch and sustain successful legal practices. Public interest law incubators like the Clinic also increase access to justice for low and modest income people.

The Clinic is unlike any other law incubator in the world in that it will focus on nurturing a virtual community of articling students and notaries to develop sustainable legal practices as sole and small firm practitioners in underserved locations. Clinicians will receive the training and infrastructure needed to get their practices up and running, while serving their community's legal needs at affordable rates.

What will it be like to article with the Everyone Legal Clinic?

The Clinic offers a truly unique articling experience. It will provide articling students with the business, technology, wellness and human relationship skills required to adapt and thrive in shifting legal marketplaces.

The Clinic articling year is split into two six-month semesters: a learning semester and a service semester. The first session's learning semester runs from May 9/22 to October 28/22, and its service semester runs from October 31/22 to May 12/23. The second session's learning semester runs from September 6/22 to March 3/23, and its service semester runs from March 6/23 to September 1/23.

During the learning semester, articling students will first attend the Law Society of BC's Professional Legal Training Course in either Kamloops, Vancouver or Victoria. They will then set up a home office in their chosen BC community. There, they will attend remote training seminars, and serve pro bono clients and some fee-paying clients under the remote supervision of staff lawyers.

Articling students will receive practical and substantive training in a wide range of areas involving "everyday legal problems", including (but not limited to) family, employment, tenancy, criminal, consumer, wills and estates, contracts, human rights, mental health, child protection, strata, and immigration law; practice management; legal technology; client development; and trauma-informed and culturally competent practice.

During the service semester, articling students will launch their fee-charging practices under the remote supervision of staff lawyers, and the local or regional support of lawyer mentors. They will provide fixed-fee, "low bono", legal aid and full-rate services to individuals referred by Access Pro Bono and other legal service organizations. Upon call to the BC bar, they will bring their work product and Clinic-sourced clients along to private practice.

Is the Everyone Legal Clinic articling experience right for me?

You will enjoy articling with the Clinic, if you:

- went to law school because you want to help people;
- are interested in creating a rewarding legal career on your own terms;
- are excited by legal technology and innovation, and see yourself as an "early adopter";
- want to benefit from mentorship, support and a virtual community of fellow clinicians; and
- want to be a part of a first-of-its-kind articling experience.

The Clinic will provide you with the following benefits and support:

- comprehensive training and expert supervision from a diverse panel of staff lawyers;
- mentorship and coaching from local and regional lawyers;
- constructive feedback on all aspects of your file work;
- free marketing of your legal services to your home community;
- a steady stream of fee-paying client referrals from Access Pro Bono;
- free use of Qase, Clio, LexisNexis and other leading-edge tech applications;
- support from Courthouse Libraries, Parents Legal Centres and sponsor law firms across BC;
- a virtual community of tech-forward and like-minded colleagues;
- and much more!

Fees and Remuneration

The Clinic does not charge any tuition or admission fees. It will cover articling students' PLTC fees. Apart from limited scholarships for Indigenous clinicians, and limited bursaries for clinicians in need, the Clinic does not provide any remuneration for articling students during the learning semester. The Clinic will permit clinicians to engage in outside employment that does not interfere with their professional development.

During the service semester, clinicians will keep 50% of all legal fees they collect from referred clients. The Clinic will keep the other 50% to support its infrastructure. Articling students will keep a much larger percentage of their own sourced client fees, and any indirect legal aid tariff payments. The Clinic aims for most clinicians to earn upward of \$20,000 over the service semester.

Application Process

You may submit an articling application between November 18/21 and December 31/21 via the online application form available at www.accessprobono.ca/program/everyone-legal-clinic. You will need to attach your resume, a copy of your law school transcripts, and a short video (up to two minutes in length) telling our Selection Committee why you think the Clinic experience is right for you. Our Selection Committee is a diverse group of lawyers, professional leaders and community service providers from across BC.

The Clinic will extend admission offers to 25 applicants over the course of January 2022. Other applicants may be waitlisted, or may consider re-applying for a third session tentatively starting in November 2022.

Selection Criteria

Articling students must have either successfully completed their accredited law degree at the start of their PLTC session, or have received a certificate of qualification from the National Committee of Accreditation.

The Clinic will prioritize the admission of law students and graduates who:

- commit to articling and later practicing in an underserved BC community (see below for priority communities);
- demonstrate previous commitment to providing legal services to disadvantaged people; and
- represent one or more equity-seeking groups.

Equity, Diversity and Inclusion

The Clinic encourages articling applications from members of communities that face discrimination and disadvantage. To accept a first group of articling students that best represents the full diversity of BC, the Clinic may give preference to applicants who self-identify as a member of one or more of the following groups: Indigenous people, persons with disabilities, LGBTQ2S+ people, and people of colour/racialized people. We encourage applicants to self-identify in their application if they feel comfortable doing so.

Priority BC Communities

- Bella Coola
- Campbell River and North Island
- Courtenay/Comox
- Cranbrook/Kimberley
- Fort Nelson/Fort St. John
- Golden/Invermere
- Grand Forks/Castlegar/Nelson
- Haida Gwaii
- Nakusp/Kaslo
- Penticton/Oliver/Osoyoos
- Port Alberni/Ucluelet/Tofino
- Powell River
- Prince George/Burns Lake/Vanderhoof
- Prince Rupert
- Quesnel/Williams Lake
- Revelstoke
- Salmon Arm/Sicamous
- Terrace/Smithers

For more information about the Everyone Legal Clinic, visit www.accessprobono.ca/program/everyone-legal-clinic email everyone@accessprobono.ca



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