

Bilingual Senior LAO Counsel

Assignment: 2 year contract

Location(s): Ottawa

Reports to: Director General

Primary Function: In this exciting role the Senior LAO Counsel will be required to act as counsel in criminal trials within the Eastern District (Ottawa, L'Orignal, Cornwall, Brockville, Pembroke) with particular emphasis placed on the representation of vulnerable and hard-to service clients, including clients with mental health needs, the elderly, indigenous and youth clients, while ensuring the application of LAO policies and processes.

Key Accountabilities:

- Acts as a resource and mentor to and works in conjunction with existing staff lawyers within the District
- Provides representation to clients on bail reviews in the Superior Court
- Performs legal research to ensure the best outcome for the client
- Conducts client meetings and provides timely, clear and concise professional advice to clients
- Performs assigned case management duties to support the efficient defence of criminal matters
- Supports the Director, Criminal Law Services, where applicable, with Mid-level Case Management
- Works with and is supported by the Senior Legal Advisor and the community of Senior Counsel province wide
- Drafts relevant legal documents in a timely and efficient manner
- Performs all administrative duties relating to file management to ensure efficient and timely processing of files, including reporting of services rendered for data collection
- Maintains currency of legal knowledge in criminal law specifically within the social justice sector
- May be required to support Major Case Management Office Senior Litigators on major cases
- Serve as mentors to current LAO duty counsel, providing coaching, training and support where needed
- Supports LAO General Counsel's Office in representing LAO interests in Court proceedings at various levels of court

Required Skills & Experience

- Member in good standing of appropriate provincial/territorial or state bar associations and eligible for membership with the Law Society of Upper Canada
- Applicants must meet, or have the ability to meet the Criminal Law and Extremely Serious Matter Panel Standards established by LAO, or its equivalency, including demonstrated expertise and substantial recent involvement in criminal law as outlined at:

http://www.legalaid.on.ca/en/info/panel_standards_criminal.asp

http://www.legalaid.on.ca/en/info/panel_standards_esm.asp

- Excellent oral and written communication and advocacy skills
- Proven ability to analyze and express legal issues and provide advice to vulnerable and hard-to-serve client
- Understanding of the nature and scope of the work and the roles and responsibilities of LAO's mandate and services
- Demonstrated interest in developing organizational capacity to deliver senior litigation services
- Able and willing to travel throughout the District: applicants must have a valid driver's license
- Must be French English/Bilingual

Preferred Skills & Experiences:

- Preference will be given to applicants that have Superior Court of Justice trial experience coupled with experience serving low income Ontarians, Aboriginal clients or clients with mental health issues
- Membership in Complex Case Rate (CCR) Panels and civil litigation experience would be a definite asset

This position is collectively represented by the Society of United Professionals (SUP) and the successful incumbent will be governed by the provisions of a collective agreement and subject to union dues once negotiated.

Please apply for this position through the Legal Aid Ontario website careers page:

www.legalaid.on.ca/en/careers

Only those candidates selected for an interview will be notified.