



## **PBLA Update:**

### **A Year in Review**

**Pro Bono Stakeholders' Round Table  
November 5 and 6, 2009**



## **Mission**

***To improve access to justice by increasing the scope and availability of pro bono legal services to Albertans of limited means.***



## **Priorities for 2009– 2010:**

- Expansion of delivery of pro bono legal services
- Supporting existing pro bono clinics and programs
- Volunteer recruitment initiatives/outreach
- Administration and Operations



## **PBLA Board Composition**

- Law Society of Alberta
- Calgary Legal Guidance
- Edmonton Community Legal Centre
- Central Alberta Community Legal Clinic
- Lethbridge Legal Guidance
- Children's Legal and Educational Resource Centre
- Canadian Bar Association



## **Priority 1: Expansion of delivery of pro bono legal services**

- Expansion of services at Grande Prairie Legal Guidance to include family law in March 2009
- Lunch time clinics offered as of September 2009
- GPLG also implemented a 'forms assistance program' for clients
- Web site developed for Grande Prairie Legal Guidance ([www.gplg.ca](http://www.gplg.ca))
- 14 lawyers are actively engaged in volunteering at the clinic



## **Expansion of delivery of pro bono legal services, cont.**

- Brokering of new partnership between Davis LLP and the Alex Pathways to Housing Program
- Web sites developed for:
  - Lethbridge Legal Guidance ([www.lethbridgelegalguidance.com](http://www.lethbridgelegalguidance.com))
  - and Central Alberta Community Legal Clinic ([www.communitylegalclinic.net](http://www.communitylegalclinic.net))



## **Priority 2: Supporting existing pro bono clinics and programs**

- Continued support of Child Advocacy Pro Bono Project in partnership with Borden Ladner Gervais LLP and Children's Legal and Educational Resource Centre (CLERC)
- Continued support of the Legal Advice Clinic in partnership with Association of Women Lawyers and The Women's Centre of Calgary
- Assumed operation of Volunteer Lawyers Service program, August 2009
- Received funding from AB Justice to complete a feasibility study and develop a model for a Roster Program for limited scope retainer and pro bono services



## **Priority 3: Volunteer Recruitment Initiatives/Outreach**

- Partnership with Pro Bono Students Canada, September 2009
- PBLA co-hosted “*Raising the Pro Bono Bar*” events for newly admitted lawyers in Edmonton and Calgary, October 2009, in partnership with CBA
- Development of resource manuals



## **Raising the Pro Bono Bar**



**Calgary Event, October 28, 2009: Rod Jerke, QC; Lawna Hurl; Gillian Marriott;  
The Honourable A.Gail Vickery, Chief Judge; Bruce Churchill-Smith, QC**



## Outreach to the Profession

- Presented to CPLED, LESA, CBA, AWL and others
- Published newsletters and articles
- Created the *Pro Bono Volunteer in Profile (VIP)* program profiling the contribution of lawyers
- Developed and presented the *Pro Bono Leader in Community Award* to deserving volunteers in Grande Prairie and Edmonton



**Presentation of  
*Pro Bono Leader in Community Award***



**Rod Jerke, QC, presents Derek Van Tassell with award March 2009**



## **Building and enhancing the Pro Bono Culture**

- Hosted third annual Pro Bono Round Table Stakeholders' Meeting, October 2008
- Participated at Law Day, hosted by CBA, April 2009
- Networked at ABA Equal Justice Conference, Orlando, FLA, May 2009
- Will co-host the National Pro Bono Conference in partnership with other provincial pro bono groups, September 15 to 17, 2010



## CBA Law Day, April 2009



April 17, 2009: Cecelia Frohlick, Gillian Marriott, Myra Skerrett



## **Priority 4: Administration and Operations**

- Moved into independent office space March 1, 2009
- Current staffing structure is Executive Director, Project Manager, Executive Assistant (3 full time positions)
- Contract staff: new GPLG coordinator, hired April 2009
- Consultant: hired May 2009 (AB Justice Project)
- Summer student, 2009
- Bookkeeper, hired September 2009
- Board of Directors acknowledges that PBLA must have the resources and capacity to carry out the mission and goals of the organization



***Creating and promoting  
pro bono opportunities for Alberta lawyers***

To get involved

Call: 403-541-4840

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Visit: [www.pbla.ca](http://www.pbla.ca)

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