



Pro Bono Law Alberta

Paths to possibilities

Message from the President and Executive Director



Kevin Feth, QC, President



Kendall Moholity, Executive Director

Pro Bono Law Alberta (PBLA) works in collaboration with the pro bono sector, community stakeholders, and members of the legal profession to facilitate access to justice for Albertans. This year marks the tenth anniversary of PBLA – a decade marked by incredible contributions by lawyers, law students and community partners to pro bono service in Alberta.

The last year saw continued growth in the need for legal services. Thanks to the many volunteer lawyers, law firms, and student volunteers participating in PBLA's partnerships, programs and community initiatives, thousands of Albertans were assisted.

The 2016-2017 year was a time of transition for our organization. On April 1, PBLA welcomed Kendall Moholity to the position of Executive Director and said farewell to Gillian Marriott, QC, who had served as Executive Director since January 2009. Justice Gillian Marriott continues to be a strong supporter of pro bono from the Bench.

PBLA is pleased to continue its collaboration with the pro bono sector, working together to facilitate access to justice for those most in need. PBLA hosted meetings among Alberta's pro bono clinics and student legal organizations to discuss collaboration, best practices and efficiencies to enhance pro bono services for individuals across Alberta. PBLA is committed to contributing to building a strong pro bono sector.

PBLA's court-based programs, the Civil Claims Duty Counsel Project (CCDC) and the Queen's Bench Court Assistance Program (QB Amicus), continue to serve self-represented litigants in both Edmonton and Calgary. In 2016-2017, more than 6,000 individuals accessed these programs to obtain legal assistance and support thanks to the volunteer efforts of hundreds of volunteer lawyers, supporting law firms, articling students, law students and internationally-trained lawyers.

We are proud of several milestones achieved in 2016 across Alberta. In September 2016, PBLA partnered on a pilot project with the Central Alberta Community Legal Clinic to host four legal clinics in Lloydminster over a one year period for residents in both Alberta and Saskatchewan. PBLA held its sixth annual Calgary Legal Advice Clinic in October 2016 in partnership with Norton Rose Fulbright (Canada) LLP, the Calgary Public Library and Calgary Legal Guidance.

Following the devastating wild fires in the Fort McMurray area, PBLA along with partnering agencies, created a series of fact sheets and podcasts related to the fires which provided legal tips and information on various areas of law. The partnering organizations also worked together to mobilize volunteer lawyers to provide dial-a-law services to those affected by the fires.

In June 2016, PBLA completed a comprehensive survey of the Alberta legal profession about pro bono participation and awareness, with the support of the Law Society of Alberta. The

survey provides information about current understanding and engagement in pro bono service, and will inform PBLA's continued work to provide support, build capacity and break down barriers for lawyers in providing pro bono service to Albertans in need.

In 2016-2017, PBLA continued to participate in national pro bono associations and initiatives with other provincial pro bono organizations, Pro Bono Students Canada, and through the Canadian Bar Association at the National and Branch levels.

The success of PBLA's collaborative partnerships, programs and community initiatives over the last ten years is due to the enthusiasm and dedication of PBLA's incredible staff, Board and Advisory Board, as well as the hundreds of volunteer lawyers, articling students, law students and partnering law firms that participate.

Thank you for growing with us over the last ten years. We are grateful for the many volunteers and partners who have worked with us to enhance pro bono legal services in Alberta. For those looking for new ways to get engaged in pro bono legal service, we invite you to join us as we move forward in collaboration with others in the pro bono sector to improve access to justice for Albertans.

Kevin Feth, QC, President

Kendall Moholity, Executive Director

Guiding Principles

The Legal Profession:

- Enhance the growth of pro bono culture.
- Promote awareness of pro bono opportunities and resources.
- Create opportunities for lawyers to discharge their professional responsibilities to provide pro bono legal services.

Community Organizations:

- Collaborate with community organizations to facilitate the integration and coordination of pro bono services provided throughout Alberta.
- Foster the development of new pro bono programs with existing community organizations where needed.
- Complement services – Pro bono legal services are intended to complement, not to replace, a properly funded legal aid system.

The Public:

- Promote awareness – raising general public awareness of pro bono legal services to community organizations and Albertans in need that require legal services.
- Support and improve the quality of pro bono programs available to Albertans in need.

Strategic Goals

Pro Bono Law Alberta will fulfill its mission by achieving the following four strategic goals:

1. Maximize volunteer lawyer engagement in the provision of pro bono legal services.
2. Strengthen pro bono culture within the legal community throughout Alberta.
3. Foster innovative and responsive pro bono initiatives throughout Alberta.
4. Maintain organizational excellence.



Thanks to Norton Rose Fulbright (Canada) LLP for participating in the 6th annual Calgary Legal Advice Clinic at the Calgary Public Library (October 2016).

Community Pro Bono Partnerships and Projects

Collaboration Round Table Meetings

In November 2016, PBLA hosted a collaboration Round Table meeting with pro bono clinics and student legal organizations: Calgary Legal Guidance, Edmonton Community Legal Centre, Central Alberta Community Legal Clinic, Lethbridge Legal Guidance, Children’s Legal and Educational Resource Centre, Student Legal Services of Edmonton, Student Legal Assistance. Participants shared updates and information, had presentations on issues of mutual interest and discussed possibilities for collaborative initiatives. The meeting included a staff lawyer breakout session for sharing best practices and discussion of common issues.

Collaborative Clinics

In 2016 and early 2017, one-day “pop up” legal clinics were held in Lloydminster and Calgary, supported by volunteer lawyers. The sixth annual Calgary Legal Advice Clinic in partnership with the Calgary Public Library, Norton Rose Fulbright (Canada) LLP and Calgary Legal Guidance took place in October 2016. PBLA, the Central Alberta Community Legal Clinic and Pro Bono Law Saskatchewan partnered on a one-year pilot project to provide legal services for citizens of Lloydminster and area on both sides of the provincial border. Three clinics were held in Lloydminster in the last year, in April and September 2016, and February 2017.

Fort McMurray Fire Legal Response Initiative

Following the devastating wild fires in May 2016 in the Wood Buffalo region, PBLA worked in collaboration with several groups to offer information and services to individuals affected by the fires. PBLA consulted with community leaders and members of the local bar to determine an appropriate legal response. PBLA and numerous partnering organizations developed fact sheets on various areas of law such as insurance, landlord/tenant matters and family law, and worked with law students to provide the same information in podcast form. PBLA also partnered with Legal Aid Alberta, the Canadian Bar Association – Alberta Branch and other organizations to provide a national Dial-A-Lawyer service for residents of Fort McMurray.

Volunteer Lawyer Services Roster Program (VLS)

VLS tries to match volunteer lawyers with charitable organizations and individuals requiring legal services but unable to afford it. Individuals are assisted through referrals from pro bono clinics and Legal Aid Alberta. VLS lawyers decide the scope of pro bono legal

Statement of financial position

As at March 31, 2017

	2017	2016
Assets	255,151	275,672
Liabilities	50,711	55,607
Net assets	204,440	220,065

Statement of operations

For the year ended March 31, 2017

	2017	2016
Revenue	662,429	738,141
Expenses	680,693	718,389
Other income	2,639	5,367
Excess (deficiency) of revenue over expenses	(15,625)	25,119

For a copy of PBLA’s audited financial statements email info@pbla.ca

services they provide and volunteer opportunities can be tailored to meet the volunteer lawyers’ schedule. Lawyers may join the roster at any time. This past year, volunteer lawyers provided several groups and individuals with pro bono legal services for matters relating to incorporation, contract review, wills and estates, civil, and family law.

Court-Based Programs

The court-based programs include the Civil Claims Duty Counsel Project and the Queen’s Bench Court Assistance Program. These programs are a joint initiative with Pro Bono Students Canada (Calgary and Edmonton Chapters), Student Legal Assistance, Student Legal Services of Edmonton, several law firms, as well as individual volunteer lawyers and students.

Civil Claims Duty Counsel Project (CCDC)

CCDC provides legal assistance to Albertans engaged in civil proceedings in Provincial Court in Calgary and Edmonton. Volunteer lawyers provide summary legal advice, procedural information, help with court forms, and other brief services. In the 2016-2017 fiscal year, more than 600 volunteer lawyers, articling students and law students provided over 2000 hours of pro bono legal services to more than 4200 individuals.

Queen’s Bench Court Assistance Program (QB Amicus)

This program aims to improve access to justice for self-represented litigants appearing in Queen’s Bench Justice and Masters Chambers in Calgary and Edmonton. In the courtroom, volunteer lawyers act as *amicus curiae* to assist individuals with their appearance before the court, thus streamlining court processes for unrepresented litigants. The program also includes a “storefront” at which volunteer lawyers provide summary legal advice regarding Chambers applications and other legal matters in the Court of Queen’s Bench. This past fiscal year more than 280 volunteer lawyers, articling students and law students provided over 1000 hours of pro bono legal services to more than 1700 individuals.

The court-based programs continue to attract interest from law firms, in-house and government legal departments, individual lawyers and law students. A total of 31 law firms, 1 government and 2 in-house legal departments were involved in both Calgary and Edmonton this year.

Our Vision

Pro Bono Law Alberta will be recognized as a leader and valued partner in fostering pro bono contributions by the legal community to facilitate access to justice for Albertans.



Thank you for growing with us

Celebrating ten years of pro bono in 2017

Pro Bono Law Alberta's success is possible through the support of many law firms, volunteer lawyers, articling students, law students, community stakeholders, project partners, court administration, donors and funders.

Advisory Board

The Honourable Madam Justice M.S. Paperny
The Honourable Madam Justice J.M. Ross
The Honourable Mr. Justice R.A. Jerke
The Honourable Mr. Justice J. T. Henderson
The Honourable Judge A.H. Lefever
The Honourable John Major, C.C., QC
The Honourable Allan Wachowich, QC
Donald Bishop, QC
Cheryl Gottselig, QC
Phyllis Smith, QC

Board of Directors

Kevin Feth, QC, President (Edmonton)
Brett Anderson, Vice President (Calgary)
Jana Neal, Treasurer (Calgary)
Scott Harling, Secretary (Lethbridge)
Walter Pavlic, QC (Edmonton) to Sept. 2016
Ed Ma (Calgary)
Allyson Jeffs (Edmonton)
Christopher Rickards, QC (Red Deer)
Steve Mandziuk, QC (Edmonton)
Robert Dunster, LSA Bencher Representative (Edmonton)

Staff

Kendall Moholity, Executive Director
Cecelia Frohlick, Director of Programs and Operations
Nonye Opara, Program Manager
Myra Skerrett, Executive Assistant
Kristina Dimitrov, Program Assistant
Yasmine Al-Zaman, Summer Student 2016

Pro Bono Community

Calgary Legal Guidance
Central Alberta Community Legal Clinic
Children's Legal and Educational Resource Centre

Edmonton Community Legal Centre
Grande Prairie Legal Guidance
Lethbridge Legal Guidance
Medicine Hat Legal Help Centre
Pro Bono Students Canada – Calgary and Edmonton Chapters
Pro Bono Law Saskatchewan
Student Legal Assistance
Student Legal Services of Edmonton

Legal Community

Ackroyd LLP
BDO Financial Recovery Services
Bishop and McKenzie LLP
Blake, Cassels & Graydon LLP
Borden Ladner Gervais LLP
Brownlee LLP
Burnet, Duckworth & Palmer LLP
Canadian Bar Association – Alberta Branch
Carbert Waite LLP
Chomicki Baril Mah LLP
City of Edmonton Law Branch
Dentons Canada LLP
DLA Piper (Canada) LLP
Emery Jamieson LLP
Family Law Office
Field LLP
Foster LLP
Gowling WLG
Grant Thornton LLP
GSD Law Group LLP
Hudson & Company Insolvency Trustees Inc.
Imperial Oil
JSS Barristers LLP
Machida James McCall Barristers
MLT Aikins LLP
McCarthy Tétrault LLP
McLennan Ross LLP
McLeod Law LLP
McMillan LLP
Miller Thomson LLP
MJM Barristers
Norton Rose Fulbright (Canada) LLP
Ogilvie LLP
Osler, Hoskin & Harcourt LLP

Parkland Fuel Corporation
Parlee McLaws LLP
Randhawa Law Office
Reynolds Mirth Richards & Farmer LLP
Robert B. White, QC and Company
Scott Venturo LLP
Sivia Law Office
Walsh LLP
Witten LLP
WK Family Lawyers & Mediators
Yanko & Popovic

Project Partners

1000 Voices at the Genesis Centre
Brenda Strafford Centre for the Prevention of Domestic Violence
Calgary Chamber of Voluntary Organizations
Calgary Public Library
Discovery House Family Violence Prevention Society
Legal Aid Alberta
Resolution and Court Administration Services
Wellspring Calgary – Money Mentors Program
Women's Centre of Calgary

Funders

Alberta LAW FOUNDATION



LAW SOCIETY of ALBERTA



United Way
Calgary and Area
Building a great city for all.



Pro Bono Law Alberta

Paths to possibilities

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PBLA engages the legal community to increase access to pro bono legal services for Albertans in need.