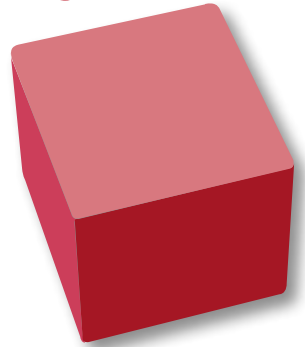




Limited Scope Retainer Project

Helping Lawyers
and the
Public They Serve

Can lawyers improve access to justice in Alberta, without being asked to do *free or discounted* legal work?








If you could expand your clientele and provide legal services at your usual hourly rate, but with reduced overhead and receivables, while providing a referral source for judges, court administrators, Legal Aid, community legal clinics and other organizations helping people willing to pay, would you?

The Limited Scope Retainer Project (LSRP) is being undertaken by a steering committee made up of members of the Law Society of Alberta, the CBA Alberta, PBLA, Legal Aid, the Alberta government and the Canadian Research Institute for Law and the Family, and is aimed at promoting and studying limited scope retainer work in Alberta.

Limited scope retainers, also known as unbundled or short legal services, are retainers in which lawyers provide an agreed number of specific legal tasks for their clients, as negotiated with their clients. Typical limited scope work ranges from drafting affidavits to providing opinions to providing advice at initial consultations, and is performed with no expectation that any further legal services are required or will be performed.

Limited scope work is approved by the Law Society of Alberta, which passed a series of amendments to the Code of Conduct in 2013 intended to heighten awareness and use of limited scope retainers.

We are looking for volunteer lawyers to help the project, which will entail:

-  **Registering for the project** – Each lawyer will have their bio, photo and contact information displayed on a dedicated, stand-alone website aimed at marketing volunteer lawyers to people seeking limited scope work.
-  **Receiving training and support** – Lawyers will be given training in providing limited scope work and the ethical issues involved in such work. Participating lawyers will have access to vetted model retainer agreements and other resources to help support their limited scope work.
-  **Providing your services** – Participating lawyers will be asked to recommend working on a limited scope basis to clients when, in their opinion, the approach suits the client and the case. Lawyers should aim to enter into at least one limited scope retainer every two or three months
-  **Promoting your services** – The LSRP website and your contact information will be promoted throughout the legal community in Alberta by the Law Society of Alberta, the CBA Alberta, PBLA, Legal Aid, court administration, community legal clinics and others.
-  **Providing feedback on your experience** – Upon finishing a limited scope retainer, you and your client will separately complete very brief online surveys of your experiences, with occasional interviews by the LSRP researchers, to gauge your satisfaction with and views on providing limited scope work.

This data will be collated and analyzed at the end of the information-gathering phase of the LSRP (estimated to be 18 months), following which a report will be prepared and distributed to help guide lawyers and policy-makers about the implications and use of limited scope legal work, and to improve future limited scope services for both lawyers and their clients.




To more information and to register, please contact us at:

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