

The Life of a Clinic Lawyer

On the weekend, I had the pleasure of attending a wedding of one of my wife's friends. During the reception, we were sitting with a couple from the United States. The husband asked me what I did for a living. Of course, I answered "a lawyer", he then said "in Toronto" "no in Windsor" I responded. I was waiting for the dreaded next question that normally comes after I respond that I am a lawyer "so what type of law do you practice?" The answer of this question always requires an explanation because not many people understand what a clinic lawyer is all about.

When people think of lawyers, they think of classic TV shows like Perry Mason, Law and Order or my personal favourite Matlock. I just love his powder baby blue suits, my wife forbids me to get one. In real life, clinic lawyers are more than a lawyers; they are also social workers. Clients that come into our legal clinic have many problems for example they might have medical problems, they might suffer from mental illness, and most of the time they are broke and extremely poor. If these problems are not enough, they also have legal problems. The majority of their legal problems are involved being denied access to government programs such as Ontario Disability Support Program or Canada Pension Plan Disability. This type of law might not seem as important like trying a first degree murder case but I would argue that clinic law is even more important. Those people convicted of murder will not die because they cannot feed themselves and their family or they cannot find lodging for themselves or for their family but our clients might be in those positions. That is why clinic law is so important.

When I entered law school, I wanted to make a difference to my community and the people around me. I can say that as a clinic lawyer I am making that difference. So what type of law do I practice? So to answer that question I can say, I practice the type of law that gives hope and independence to people who might not otherwise get it.

~ Written by Kevin J. Pinsonneault

Le Personnel / Our Staff

| | |
|-----------------------|-------------------------------------|
| Jessie Iwasiw | Directrice Générale |
| Judy Aikman-Springer | Avocate |
| Kevin J. Pinsonneault | Avocat |
| Marie Laforge | Gérante Du Bureau |
| Lisa Santia | Conseillère Juridique Communautaire |
| Tammy Pelchat | Personnel De Soutien |



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Réservez la date...

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BILINGUE



WINDSOR-ESSEX
BILINGUAL LEGAL CLINIC

Save the date...

ASSEMBLÉE
GÉNÉRALE
ANNUELLE
ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Le 21 septembre 2011 September 21, 2011

RAFRAÎCHISSEMENTS AND DOOR PRIZES

Ligne de conseils juridiques sommaires *du Sud-Ouest*

Conseils juridiques gratuits et réorientations en français aux résidents à faible revenu dans le sud-ouest de l'Ontario touchant les compétences suivantes :

Le Programme ontarien de soutien aux personnes handicapées
L'Aide sociale (y compris Ontario au travail)
Le logement (droits des locataires)
L'Assurance-emploi
Le Régime de pensions du Canada
L'immigration
Droits de la personne



Financé par:
LEGAL AID ONTARIO
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Administré par:
La Clinique juridique bilingue
Windsor-Essex

1 855 650-9716



L'Assemblée générale annuelle Annual General Meeting

Le 15 septembre 2011 à 17h00
September 15th, 2011 at 5:00pm

Bon été tout le monde

Avant que vous vous reposiez pour vos vacances et que le beau temps d'été vous souhaite, nous voulons vous donner un petit aperçu de ce que nous avons fait récemment. Bien sûr, nous avons continué avec notre travail juridique et nous avons eu de l'aide indispensable grâce à notre stagiaire qui a commencé son placement à notre bureau au mois de janvier.

The most exciting development in the clinic's work has been the start of a summary advice help line in French. People will be able to call in on a toll free number (1-855-650-9716) and get advice on legal matters that are covered by the clinic.

Nous prévoyons un grand intérêt et nous vous invitons de partager ces informations parmi vos réseaux francophones. Les références à notre ligne de conseils sont toujours les bienvenues. Ce projet est financé par L'Aide juridique Ontario dans un effort d'épanouir des services en français partout dans la province. Nous vous rappelons que notre AGA aura lieu mercredi, le 21 septembre, 2011. There are more details elsewhere in this flyer.

Best wishes for a great summer and, as the song says,...

♪ We will see you in September.♪

- J'assisterai à l'A.G.A
Will attend AGM
- Devenir membre de la clinique
Become a Clinic Member
- Cotisation ci-inclu
Membership fee enclosed
- Devenir candidat(e) au Conseil d'administration
Board Member Candidate

MEMBERSHIP DEADLINE: JULY 31, 2011

Demande d'adhésion 2011 Membership Registration Form

Les nouveaux membres sont toujours les bienvenus. Nous encourageons toute personne ayant connaissance des besoins de cette communauté et s'intéressant aux services offerts par la clinique de s'inscrire. Les frais d'adhésion ne coûtent que 2\$ et cela donne droit à certains privilèges. Il est à noter qu'il faut les payer avant le 31 juillet 2011, pour pouvoir voter à l'Assemblée générale annuelle ainsi que de devenir membre du conseil si élu. Quant aux membres actuels, ils doivent renouveler leur carte de membre chaque année. Dans l'attente de vous voir.

The clinic needs members to keep in touch with the needs of the community and to support the work of the clinic. Members are also a good source for board members because they know something about the work of the clinic and may represent the community we exist to serve. Please consider becoming a member of the clinic. At the present time, there is a nominal fee of \$2.00 for membership to be paid by July 31st, 2011 in order to vote at our AGM in September. You will receive our newsletter and you have a chance to bring your ideas to the clinic so that we are better able to serve the low-income community.

Nom / Name

Adresse / Address

Téléphone

Courriel / Email