

Glossary of Relevant Terms

This glossary is meant to help inform your submission in conjunction with the Terms of Reference, and is not presented as a definitive or exhaustive list of relevant concepts and terms.

Attorney General	Provincial Cabinet Minister responsible for the administration of justice in BC, including the funding of its legal aid system
Certificate/private bar model	Service delivery model in which legal aid services are delivered by private lawyers who are certified and paid rated fees by the provincial legal aid organization
Choice of counsel	Individual client's freedom to choose and retain any private lawyer who is certified and prepared to provide legal aid services at the provincial legal aid organization's rates of pay
Clinic model	Service delivery model in which legal aid services are delivered by lawyers from independent community-based clinics contracted by the provincial legal aid organization
Duty counsel	Lawyers contracted or employed by the provincial legal aid organization to provide limited scope legal aid services at critical locations and times; "expanded duty counsel" refers to lawyers who provide greater scope and continuity of client service
Legal aid	Government-funded provision of free legal information, advice and/or representation services to people otherwise unable to afford them, often constitutionally mandated
Legal Services Society (LSS)	Provincial non-profit organization created by the <i>Legal Services Society Act</i> to provide legal information, advice, and representation services to British Columbians with low incomes; often referred to as BC's "legal aid organization"; see lss.bc.ca
Legal Services Society Act	Provincial statute outlining the structure, role and accountability of the Legal Services Society
Major cases	High-priced legal aid cases characterized by complex legal and/or procedural issues, voluminous evidence, extensive preparation time and lengthy trials; often referred to as "mega-trials"
Mixed model	Hybrid service delivery model in which legal aid services are delivered by a varying combination of private, staff and clinic lawyers; "complex mixed model" refers to a more refined, integrated and adaptable mix of private, staff and clinic lawyers, often supplemented by expanded duty counsel, paralegals, community workers, limited scope and/or technology-based services
Paralegals	Legal service providers who can provide a restricted range of client services under a lawyer's supervision, such as legal advice and representation at tribunal
Staff lawyer model	Service delivery model in which legal aid services are provided by lawyers who are directly employed by the provincial legal aid organization
User focus	Framework for system design that optimizes a service around how users want or need to use the service, rather than forcing users to adapt or accommodate to the service as pre-conceived