

Mentee application form

Criteria for mentees (junior lawyers seeking a mentor)

- In good standing with the LSUC
- Member in good standing with the courts or administrative panels in front of whom they appear
- Potential for addressing problems underlying a history of disciplinary problems or substantiated complaints by LSUC or LAO
- Commitment to a particular area of law, and to a legal aid practice in general
- Lack of mentoring opportunities in their employment, such as working for a firm that does not have more experienced counsel
- Conditionally admitted to a legal aid panel and in the process of seeking permanent admission
- Women and members of other minority groups may receive particular consideration

Case criteria for second chair opportunities

Cases suitable for the Second Chair program should include features that would allow a mentee to learn and develop, through “hands-on experience” the skills necessary to act as counsel on such cases in the future. Such features include:

- legal issues currently underserved by legal aid (such as child protection law)
- issues relevant to particular vulnerable client groups (such as Aboriginal clients and clients with mental health issues)
- the number and kind of required pre-trial motions
- novel legal questions
- complicated factual scenario(s)
- the need to handle expert evidence
- heightened need for strategic judgment
- opportunities for meaningful cross-examination
- involvement of a high-needs client with mental health issues
- high profile elements
- large amount of material for review to prepare for a proceeding
- an appeal or judicial review of a judgment

The above list does not preclude, in appropriate circumstances, authorizations through the program for short trials or hearings that are not overly complex or challenging but would provide mentees with valuable learning experiences.

Instructions

Please submit your application form by email to secondchair@lao.on.ca only.

1. Applicants information

Name:

LAO solicitor number:

Year of call:

Current Tier level:

Tier 1

Tier 2

Tier 3

Location/district:

GTA region

NCE: Central district

NCE: Eastern district

NCE: Northeast district

NCE: Northwest district

SW: Essex, Lambton, and Kent district

SW: Hamilton-Kitchener district

SW: London district

Phone #:

Email:

Which area(s) of law does your request apply to? (select all that apply)

Civil

Family

Other (please specify)

Criminal

Refugee & immigration

Date of request:

(YYYY-MM-DD)

2. Request details

Number of hours requested (incl. prep and court time):

Do you have an active certificate?

Yes

No

If yes, Certificate Number:

Is the certificate a BCM certificate?

Yes

No

Next court date:

(YYYY-MM-DD)

Does your case have any of the characteristics identified below? (select all that apply)

Aboriginal

Domestic violence

Other (please specify)

Child protection

Mental Health

Please provide a short explanation of why this case would be a good Second Chair learning opportunity for an inexperienced lawyer. (For assistance, please refer to the criteria used by LAO for determining Second Chair authorizations (page 1 of this form))

3. Mentor details

Do you have a mentor? Yes No

If yes, has the mentor agreed to assist you with your case? Yes No

If yes, name of mentor:

Mentor phone:

Mentor email:

Personal information in this form is collected under the authority of section 84 of the *Legal Aid Services Act* and is used in the general administration of the payment of lawyers accounts including: case management, application of block fees and tariff, discretion, reviews, disbursement authorization, expedite requests, late billing, hard cap, and recoveries; and, is used in the panel management of lawyers including investigations, panel suspension, and panel removal. Questions about this collection should be directed to the FIPPA coordinator, 40 Dundas Street West, Suite 200, Toronto, ON, M5G 2H1, 416-979-1446 or 1-800-668-8258.

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