

THE COUNTY & DISTRICT LAW PRESIDENTS' ASSOCIATION
L'ASSOCIATION DES BÂTONNIERS DE COMTÉS ET DISTRICTS

Randall S. Boccock, Chair



February 18, 2009

Fact Sheet – Criminal Law Offices

Background – CLOs

- Beginning in the spring of 2004, Legal Aid Ontario (LAO) with the help of the Federal government under its Investment Fund for Criminal Legal Aid Renewal began operating three Criminal Law Offices (CLOs) in Barrie, Brampton, and Ottawa.
- The CLOs were set up as a three year pilot project with federal funding but they are now into their fourth year of operation and are being funded entirely by LAO through its own budgetary resources.
- The CLOs are staff offices and have a mandate to provide criminal representation to financially eligible accused in the communities where they have been established.
- They were designed to supplement the Legal Aid certificate system and were tasked with performing community outreach and law reform initiatives.
- LAO committed to providing a three year independent evaluation of the CLOS. The final evaluation, entitled “The Third Year Report” of the CLOs was completed and submitted to LAO on April 7, 2008.

CDLPA Analysis

- With the assistance of Ms. Beverly Brooks, M.A.(Econ.), M.B.A, of Hill and Knowlton, CDLPA conducted its own analysis of the “Third Year Report” to determine whether the CLOs were providing value for money
- The source of information on case costs came directly from the “Third Year Report” commissioned by LAO.

Highlights of CDLPA analysis

- CDLPA's report shows that the average cost per case per CLO over the last two years is 65% to 85% more costly than the private bar
- CDLPA's analysis reveals that the private bar could complete almost fifteen times as many cases as the Ottawa CLO; complete almost thirty times as many cases as the Brampton CLO; Take on more than double the number of cases as the Barrie CLO.

For More Information:

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