



# 2022 Call for Articling Applications

Welcome to the Everyone Legal Clinic — a BC-wide and first-of-its-kind public interest law incubator. Operated by Access Pro Bono BC, the Clinic launched in May 2022 as part of the Law Society of BC's Innovation Sandbox. It trains and supports new generations of lawyers, articling students and notaries in offering a full range of low-cost and fixed-fee legal services to everyone in BC—wherever they're located.

In early January 2023, the Everyone Legal Clinic will accept 15 law graduates to begin articling as a cohort in May 2023, and another 10 law graduates to begin articling as a cohort in September 2023.

## The Clinic serves to:

1. Increase access to affordable and high quality legal services in all BC communities;
2. Increase professional capacity for public interest legal service throughout BC;
3. Provide new generations of BC legal professionals with the substantive knowledge and practical skills required to thrive in highly adaptive forms of public-minded legal practice;
4. Improve equity, diversity, working conditions and quality of education in BC's lawyer and notary training systems, and reduce unmet need for articling positions in BC;
5. Promote new virtual, fixed-fee and modular forms of legal practice.

## What is a public interest law incubator?

Law incubators provide lawyers, articling students and notaries with the training, mentorship, resources, and client referrals needed to launch and sustain successful legal practices. Public interest law incubators like the Clinic also increase access to justice for low and modest income people.

The Clinic is unlike any other law incubator in the world in that it focusses on nurturing a virtual community of articling and notary clinicians to develop sustainable legal practices as sole and small firm practitioners in underserved locations. Clinicians receive the training and infrastructure needed to get their practices up and running productively, while serving their community's legal needs at affordable rates.

## What will it be like to article with the Everyone Legal Clinic?

The Clinic offers a truly unique articling experience with an unparalleled practice training program. It provides its articling clinicians with the business, technology, wellness and human relationship skills required to adapt and thrive in shifting legal marketplaces.

The Clinic's articling year is split into two six-month semesters: a learning semester and a service semester. The first (May 2023) cohort's learning semester runs from May 15/23 to November 9/23, and its service semester runs from November 13/23 to May 10/24. The second (September 2023) cohort's learning semester runs from September 5/23 to March 1/24, and its service semester runs from March 4/24 to September 6/24.

During their learning semester, articling clinicians first attend a one-week Clinic orientation over Zoom, and then spend several weeks completing an online bar training course as selected by the Law Society of BC (either the **Professional Legal Training Course** or the **Accelerated Practice Readiness Education Program**). Following their bar training, they set up a home office in their chosen BC community. There, they attend Clinic training seminars over Zoom, and serve pro bono clients and some fee-paying clients under the remote guidance of the Clinic's 16 supervising lawyers.

Articling clinicians receive practical and substantive training in a wide range of areas involving "everyday legal problems", including (but not limited to) family, employment, criminal, consumer, wills and estates, contracts, human rights, mental health, child protection, tenancy and strata law; practice management; legal technology; client development; and trauma-informed and culturally competent practice.

During their service semester, articling clinicians launch their fee-charging practices under the remote guidance of the Clinic's roster of supervising lawyers, and the local or regional support of lawyer mentors. They provide fixed-fee, low cost and legal

aid services to the public, including people referred by Access Pro Bono and other legal service organizations. Upon call to the BC bar, they bring their work product and Clinic-sourced clients along to private practice.

## Is the Everyone Legal Clinic articling experience right for me?

You will enjoy articling with the Clinic, if you:

- went to law school because you want to help people;
- are interested in creating a rewarding legal career on your own terms;
- are excited by legal technology and innovation, and see yourself as an "early adopter";
- want to benefit from mentorship, support and a virtual community of fellow clinicians; and
- want to be a part of a progressive and truly unique articling experience.

The Clinic will provide you with the following benefits and support:

- comprehensive training and expert supervision from a diverse panel of practising lawyers;
- mentorship and coaching from local and regional lawyers;
- constructive feedback on all aspects of your file work;
- free marketing of your legal services to your home community;
- a steady stream of fee-paying client referrals from Access Pro Bono;
- free use of Qase, Clio, LexisNexis, Appara and other leading-edge tech applications;
- free membership in the BC Branch of the Canadian Bar Association;
- support from Courthouse Libraries and sponsor law firms across BC;
- a virtual community of tech-forward and like-minded colleagues;
- and much more!

## Fees and Remuneration

The Clinic does not charge any tuition or admission fees. It covers articling clinicians' bar training course fees. It also provides financial aid (bursaries and scholarships) to all articling clinicians during their learning semester, as funding permits. In 2022, the Clinic provided between \$20,000 and \$25,000 in financial aid to each of its 25 articling clinicians during their learning semester, by virtue of charitable donations and grants. The Clinic permits clinicians to engage in outside employment throughout their articling year, so long as it does not interfere with their professional development.

During their service semester, clinicians keep 50% of all legal fees they collect from referred clients. The Clinic keeps the other 50% to fund bursaries and scholarships for the following articling cohorts. Articling clinicians keep a much larger percentage of their own sourced client fees, and any indirect legal aid tariff payments. The Clinic aims for most clinicians to earn upward of \$20,000 over their service semester.

## Application Process

You may submit an articling application between November 10/22 and December 31/22 via the online application form available at [everyonelegal.ca](http://everyonelegal.ca). You will need to attach your resume, a copy of your law school transcripts, and a short video (up to two minutes in length) telling us why you think the Clinic experience is right for you.

The Clinic will extend admission offers to 25 applicants over the course of December 2022 and January 2023. Other applicants may be waitlisted, or may consider re-applying for articling cohorts beginning in 2024.

## Selection Criteria

Articling clinicians must have either successfully completed their accredited law degree at the start of their bar training course, or have received a certificate of qualification from the National Committee of Accreditation.

The Clinic will prioritize the admission of law students and graduates who:

- commit to articling and later practicing in an underserved BC community (see below for priority communities);
- demonstrate previous commitment to providing legal services to disadvantaged people; and
- represent one or more equity-seeking groups.

## Equity, Diversity and Inclusion

The Clinic encourages articling applications from members of communities that face discrimination and disadvantage. To accept articling cohorts that best represent the full diversity of BC, the Clinic may give preference to applicants who self-identify as a member of one or more of the following groups: Indigenous people, persons with disabilities, 2SLGBTQ+ people, and people of colour/racialized people. We encourage applicants to self-identify in their application if they feel comfortable doing so.

## Priority BC Communities

- Bella Coola
- Campbell River and North Island
- Courtenay/Comox
- Cranbrook/Kimberley
- Fort Nelson/Fort St. John
- Golden/Invermere
- Grand Forks/Castlegar/Nelson
- Haida Gwaii
- Nakusp/Kaslo
- Penticton/Oliver/Osoyoos
- Port Alberni/Ucluelet/Tofino
- Powell River
- Prince George/Burns Lake/Vanderhoof
- Prince Rupert
- Quesnel/Williams Lake
- Revelstoke
- Salmon Arm/Sicamous
- Terrace/Smithers

For more information about the Everyone Legal Clinic, visit [www.everyonelegal.ca](http://www.everyonelegal.ca) email [articling@everyonelegal.ca](mailto:articling@everyonelegal.ca)



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