

I am running to ensure that the CLA's core mandate is to make the day-to-day life of a criminal defence lawyer easier. To this end, I pledge to do three things:

**LEGAL AID:** I will fight to see that Legal Aid rates are increased. Although we just received an increase, it does not keep up with inflation. The fight is far from over. Legal Aid must recognize and remedy the fact that we are continuing to lose money on Legal Aid files. If Legal Aid won't act, the CLA needs to take more drastic action.

**ASSISTANCE WITH A DIFFICULT CROWN, JUDGE, OR CASE:** The CLA will assist you with: 1. Complaints against a Crown who you believe is treating you unfairly; 2. Complaints against a judge who you believe is treating anyone unfairly; 3. Legal research or an intervention on matters where you feel the Crown is putting its full weight upon you. We all know the feeling of having an oppressive Crown or judge. It is lonely. It is suffocating. It doesn't have to be that way. The CLA exists to have your back when you need support.

**BOLD IDEAS:** Why are we still doing remand appearances when an email will do? Why do recently appointed judges sit on cases prosecuted by their old Crown office? Why do we have to create a trial scheduling form for the prosecution of our client? Why can't Legal Aid email us when a certificate or payment appears in our portal? The CLA must try to change these things.

**ABOUT ME:** I run my own practice. Approximately half of my files are Legal Aid certificates. I have been a criminal defence articling student, associate, sole practitioner, and now, employer. I practice throughout Ontario, from small towns to the Court of Appeal.

If you know me personally or through the listserv or Twitter, know that I will put the same intensity fighting for you that I put into the practice of law.