

HINTS AND TIPS FROM THE PROTHONOTARY - REGISTRAR

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COURT DOCKETS for March and April:

Please note: the Prothonotaries' Offices will be closed on the following holidays:

- Friday, March 25 and Monday, March 28

A) Court of Appeal:

Court of Appeal regular chambers will be held on Thursdays at 10:00 a.m. through March and April. Court of Appeal telechambers are held on Wednesdays at pre-appointed times. Please call ahead to the Deputy Registrar, Cherri Brown, at 424-6937 to book a time.

Due to the closure of the Prothonotary's Office over the Easter holiday (March 25 and March 28), the deadline for filing motions in Court of Appeal Chambers the week of March 29 is as follows: for telechambers Wednesday, March 30, documents must be filed by Monday, March 21; for regular chambers Thursday, March 31, documents must be filed by Tuesday, March 22.

The Court of Appeal posts the docket for appeal hearings, including the date, time, location of the appeal and the panel members, on its website:

<http://courts.ns.ca/Appeal Court/NSCA dockets.htm>

In addition to posting the current appealing hearing term, the Court now posts a 'Rolling Docket', which means that once appeals are set down they are added to the online docket.

B) Supreme Court:

Supreme Court Crownside in Halifax will be held on the following Thursdays at 9:00 am: March 3, 10, 17, 24 and 31, and April 7, 14, 21 and 28.

Appearance days will be held on Fridays at noon in Halifax through March and April with the following exceptions: **there will be no appearance day on March 25 or April 15.**

CIVIL PROCEDURE RULE AMENDMENTS:

The Supreme Court Judges approved the following amendments on February 26, 2016:

Rule 13 – Summary Judgment:

http://www.courts.ns.ca/Civil_Procedure_Rules/documents/amendmentrule1320160226.pdf

Practice Memorandum No 9 – Bankruptcy and Insolvency:

http://www.courts.ns.ca/Civil_Procedure_Rules/documents/nssc_practice_memo_9_insolvency_15_02_26.pdf

Please note that although this Practice Memorandum sets Bankruptcy & Insolvency general chambers in Halifax on Wednesdays, Thursdays and Fridays, those matters may also be heard in general chambers on Mondays and Tuesdays.

COURT OF APPEAL:

The Court of Appeal Liaison Committee produced two ‘How-to-Manuals’ for Civil and Criminal Appeals. These are geared towards self-represented litigants, though may be helpful to counsel new to appeals. The manuals are found on the Court of Appeal’s website at the bottom of page found at this link: http://courts.ns.ca/Appeal_Court/NSCA_home.htm

BOTH COURTS:

Free Legal Clinic at the Law Courts

The Law Courts in Halifax continues to be home to the Free Legal Clinic. The Clinic is located on the 2nd floor of the Law Courts, and is held every Thursday from 9 am to 1 pm in two simultaneous 1 hour sessions held by volunteer lawyers.

The Clinic is intended for self-represented litigants with limited to little experience in the court system. The Clinic provides service for civil matters at the Supreme Court (General Division) and at Court of Appeal, including family law appeals but excluding child protection appeals. It will not provide service on any criminal matters in either court.

Assistant for family law appeals at the Court of Appeal will be provided approximately one Thursday per month. The next family sessions are scheduled for March 3 and 31.

If you have any litigants in mind that you believe might benefit from this service, kindly refer them to the Court Administration office at the Law Courts. Litigants may initiate the sign up process in person or by telephone at 424-6900 for Supreme Court matters, and 424-6937 for Court of Appeal matters.

For more information, go to the Courts website:

http://courts.ns.ca/self_reps/nsca-nssc_free_legal_clinic.htm

Liaison Committees

Both the Court of Appeal and the Supreme Court have Liaison Committees that are composed of members of both the Bar and Bench. These Committees sit approximately twice a year. Counsel are reminded that they are invited to bring forward items they would like raised at Liaison Committee meetings to Bar members of the relevant committees. Current information on committee membership may be obtained from the Nova Scotia Barristers' Society.