



JUSTICE EDUCATION SOCIETY

JUSTICE THROUGH KNOWLEDGE



2009 - 2010 Annual Report

President's Letter



March 31, 2010

The past year has been both challenging and rewarding for the Justice Education Society of BC.

Unprecedented tough economic times and the consequent loss of some long-standing funding sources required the Society to adapt and respond. It has done so in part by service cuts to its program for school groups – the Justice System Education Program. Despite this setback the Society accomplished much, introducing over 20,000 British Columbians to their court system through the program.

The Society also partnered with the Law Society of BC to produce a video and teaching guide entitled “Legal Independence: It’s Your Right.” This resource was distributed to more than 450 BC high school teachers to educate students about lawyer and judicial independence.

Some other highlights of our accomplishments this past year include the launch of five new legal education websites and almost 200,000 visitors to over 25 of the Society’s web resources. In addition, the Society delivered a variety of educational programs throughout BC; the international program dramatically expanded its work in Central America; our executive director, Rick Craig, joined Canada’s Governor General on a State Visit; and the Society partnered with Shaw TV and the Vancouver Sun to organize a timely forum on BC’s gang problem.

In May, the Society celebrated a major milestone – its 20th anniversary. Over 100 of the Society’s friends, partners, funders and former board members toasted two decades of success and the launch of the organization’s new name. The Board and I believe the “Justice Education Society of BC” now better reflects the full scope of the Society’s work.

We are grateful to the many individuals and organizations who contributed generously in 2009/10, in particular the following:

- The Honourable Donald Brenner, QC
- The Canadian Bar Association-BC Branch
- The Victoria Bar Association
- The Langley Bar Association
- The Law Society of BC
- The Law Foundation of BC
- Department of Justice
- The Notary Foundation of BC
- City of Vancouver
- Canadian International Development Agency
- Department of Foreign Affairs and International Trade Canada

The Society’s accomplishments during the year are a result of the dedication of our staff and Board of Directors. I thank them for their commitment and ongoing efforts. In addition, I thank The Honourable Chief Justices Lance S.G. Finch and Robert J. Bauman, as well as The Honourable Chief Judge Thomas (CJ) Crabtree, for their support and many contributions to justice education.

Lastly, no discussion of the past year in public legal education is complete without acknowledging the passing of the late Honourable Chief Judge Hugh Stansfield of the Provincial Court of BC. Chief Judge Stansfield was a strong supporter of public legal education. He will be missed.

The Honourable Judge Pedro de Couto
President of the Board
Justice Education Society of BC

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“Having the Justice Education Society here to be able to bring my students to give them a first-hand account of what life is like in a courtroom on a daily basis has been very, very helpful and important to my teaching practice. Another integral part for me is that I can use a variety of the material from the Society across the board for all of my teaching.

“The Justice Education Society has really helped me as a law teacher.”

Sandra Dasilva
Teacher, Cariboo Hill Secondary

Mission & Objectives

The Justice Education Society’s Mission

Building stronger communities by promoting understanding of, access to, and confidence in our justice system, at home and abroad.

The Justice Education Society’s Objectives

1. To provide hands-on educational programs and services to the general public, as well as to youth, Aboriginals, ethnic and immigrant communities, deaf people, those with special learning abilities, and other groups as needed.
2. To make those working within the justice system (judges, lawyers, sheriffs, and other justice system personnel) aware of the barriers that certain groups face in accessing our justice system.
3. To continually identify new ways in which the justice system can be made more accessible to all.

Programs

Justice System Education Program

For over 20 years, the Justice System Education Program (JSEP) has provided school and community groups throughout British Columbia with an overview of Canada's justice system. Over 1 million students have visited a courthouse, spoken with judges and justice system professionals, and viewed live court proceedings.

This year was challenging for the Society's domestic programming, including JSEP. Severe government funding cuts for this program resulted in layoffs, office closures and service reduction. With the Law Foundation's permission, an existing Foundation grant to the Society was re-directed to underwrite remaining JSEP services. In addition, JSEP was sustained by the generous financial support of the following individuals and groups:

Mr. Donald Brenner, QC
The Victoria Bar Association
The Notary Foundation

The Canadian Bar Association-BC Branch
The Langley Bar Association
Individual judges and lawyers across BC

Discussions with government funders continue with the hope that a more permanent funding solution can be found for the program.

Despite these financial challenges, the Society delivered programs to:

777 groups

20,924 students



"The Justice System Education Program is so beneficial because it educates and prepares our students to become active citizens in their community. I couldn't imagine teaching a law program without being able to bring my students to the Law Courts."

Barb Wrinkle
Ecole Marlborough School

696
court
orientations

725
courtwatching
sessions

402
meetings with
judges

535
meetings with justice
system personnel

145
mock trials

296
teachers trained

Parenting After Separation Programs

Our Parenting After Separation and Finances After Separation programs equip parents with knowledge and skills to communicate and plan their lives more effectively during marital breakdown. Workshops taught by family justice counsellors and trained Justice Education Society facilitators are held throughout BC's Lower Mainland. The programs are offered through funding from the Province of BC.

Parenting After Separation

143 workshops

1,902 people served

Finances After Separation

23 workshops

112 people served

Community Action & Assessment Network

The Society, through its Prince George office, is partnering with the Ministry of Solicitor General in the Community Action and Assessment Network (CAAN) - a community-based, anti-youth-gang initiative. During the year, the CAAN coordinator worked with municipal and community service agencies, the RCMP and youth agencies to assess conditions fostering gang activity and to develop a strategy to prevent youth involvement in gangs.

We Can BC

A number of successful public events took place as a part of We Can End All Violence against Women, such as Violence Prevention Week, a Change Makers Conference and the 16 Days of Activism to End Gender-Based Violence.

The campaign's website, www.WeCanBC.ca, was re-designed to accommodate various interactive features as well as legal resources. And over 800 people currently follow the organization on Facebook.

In addition, this year the Society worked on an innovative project to promote public legal education and information (PLEI) through We Can BC. As the result of this project PLEI resources were integrated into campaign outreach and educational activities.

Court Information Program for Immigrants

Funded by grants from the City of Vancouver and the BC Ministries of Attorney General and Advanced Labour Market Development, the Court Information Program for Immigrants (CIPI) provides justice system information and referral services in locations throughout the Lower Mainland for permanent residents of Canada.

CIPI court workers deliver community workshops and provide free legal information and referrals to clients in Chinese, Vietnamese, Punjabi, Spanish and English. The program seeks to overcome language and cultural barriers primarily in the criminal and family justice systems. Learn more at www.CourtInformation.ca

5,905 clients served



Binh Luong, CIPI's Chinese & Vietnamese Court Worker, leads a workshop.

Northern Native PLE Program

The Society serves Aboriginal communities in Northern BC through its Northern Native Public Legal Education (NNPLE) program. With the financial support of The Law Foundation, the NNPLE program delivers culturally-sensitive public legal education to communities from 100 Mile House to the Yukon and from the Alberta border to Haida Gwaii.

9 youth-at-risk workshops → **185** youth-at-risk served
27 school presentations → **572** children & youth served
21 meetings with teachers → **32** teachers served
3 community workshops → **118** community participants

New Resources



Legal Independence: It's Your Right

During the year, the Society launched a new teaching resource, Legal Independence: It's Your Right. This teacher's guide plus 10-minute fictionalized video vignette

is designed to educate students about lawyer and judicial independence. The video follows three students challenging a fictitious law in court and shines a light on their misconceptions about receiving a fair trial or impartial treatment by lawyers and judges during the process.

Legal Independence was mailed to 450 Law, Social Studies and Civics teachers throughout BC.

Greg Hockley, a Grade 12 Law teacher at North Vancouver's Windsor Secondary School, was an "early adopter" and taught a one-hour lesson using the resource. Global TV reporter John Daly taped the proceedings and interviewed Greg and his students. The reviews were positive: the students found the video realistic and the related activities interesting and easily understood.

Legal Independence was developed in partnership with the Law Society of BC with funding from the Law Foundation of BC. It is available free of charge.



The video can also be viewed online at www.JusticeEducation.ca/Teachers-Youth.

Being An Active Citizen

Being an Active Citizen enhances present BC Social Studies curriculum on law, government and citizenship. The program educates students on their important role as citizens by providing them with knowledge and understanding of the structure and operation of Canada's and BC's political and justice systems. It also gives students tools and confidence to embrace active participation in the life of their communities.



Being an Active Citizen is a sequential five-year program with 10 lessons per year through Social Studies grades 7-11.

Students are encouraged to apply critical thinking skills and discuss "How does it work?", "Why is it important to me?" and "How can I participate?" Through classroom activities, readings and an active citizenship project, students will develop an understanding of how they can become active citizens and learn new skills to do so.

Over the next few years, the Ministry of Education will be revising the Prescribed Learning Outcomes (PLOs) for Social Studies grades 7-11. The Society will work with the ministry so Being an Active Citizen can be incorporated into the revised PLOs.

Being an Active Citizen will also be promoted in the coming school year in workshops for teachers held throughout the province.

Learn more at www.BCCitizenship.ca.

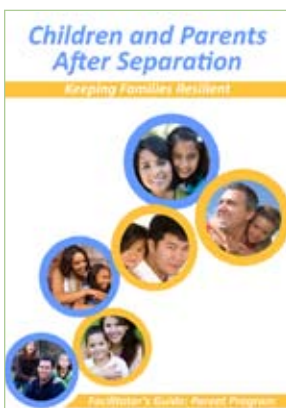
Though the Heavens Fall

A DVD and teacher's guide were produced to mark the 100th anniversary of the Court of Appeal for BC. Though the Heavens Fall was broadcast at numerous events over the past year and on the Knowledge Network. The teacher's guide was distributed to Law 12 teachers in January and is available for purchase. The video can be viewed on our website.



Children and Parents After Separation

The Society developed a program for parents and children dealing with the issues of separation and divorce. Program materials were created and tested by trained facilitators. For participants, the program was a success and helped their families have a better understanding of the issues that arise during a family break-up. They also learned skills to help them deal with those issues moving forward.



The program particularly gave children a chance to talk about their reactions to the break-up. From the facilitators' perspective, the program was a very important part of the services offered to families.

Unfortunately, due to budget cutbacks the program is currently on hold.

KidsBC.ca



www.KidsBC.ca provides kids experiencing a parental divorce or separation with an online resource to help them cope. The site has been receiving positive feedback. For example:

"Thanks so much for this great resource - I am a child therapist and will use this as a tool with kids going through this difficult time in their life."

Anonymous

Online Communities

The Society launched a YouTube channel in June. Now over 55 of the Society's videos can be viewed and commented on.

The Society also continues to post updates on its Twitter and Facebook pages. Hundreds of followers and friends instantly receive Society and BC justice news.



You can also use social media to follow the Society:

YouTube: www.YouTube.com/JusticeEducationBC

Twitter: www.Twitter.com/JusticeEd

Facebook: www.Facebook.com/JusticeEducation

To Order Resources

Visit www.JusticeEducation.ca
Phone 604.660.9870
Email Info@JusticeEducation.ca

LawConnection.ca

www.LawConnection.ca was given a modern, fresh design. The site provides information on current legal issues for teachers and students. Each issue includes background information and teaching resources. The site is a partnership between the Justice Education Society, SFU's Centre for Education, Law and Society as well as Law Clerks at the BC Courts.



YCJA.ca

Content for Explore the YCJA was updated and launched as a distinct website - www.YCJA.ca. The website provides training on the Youth Criminal Justice Act for teachers and students. Teachers can complete lessons and receive professional development credit upon passing the final exam. In addition, teachers have access to a range of YCJA online resources, quizzes for each section and recommended student assignments.



CourtInformation.ca

The Society's Court Information Program for Immigrants was given an online home. www.CourtInformation.ca provides information on a variety of topics – from BC Courts to Family Law. The website features videos, links to online resources, and translated information from the popular resource Learning About the Law. All information on the website is available in six languages: English, Chinese, Vietnamese, Punjabi, Spanish and French.



ImmigrantLegal.ca

The Immigrant PLEI Consortium (IPC) also has a new website – www.ImmigrantLegal.ca. The website features a wealth of information on employment law and residential tenancy law. Resources include fact sheets, FAQs, workshop videos and a Google Maps-based services directory (highlighting services by region and by over 50 languages).



The Justice Education Society has over 25 online learning resources.

View them all at www.JusticeEducation.ca

Court Visit – Online Booking System

The Society launched a new online system at www.CourtVisit.JusticeEducation.ca that enables groups to book visits to the following courthouses:

Abbotsford	Port Coquitlam
Chilliwack	Prince George
Kamloops	Surrey
Kelowna	Vancouver - Hornby St.
New Westminster	Vancouver - Main St.
North Vancouver	

At courthouses where the Society has regional coordinators, groups can participate in court orientations, courtwatching and mock trials as well as sessions with judges, lawyers and other court personnel.

In addition, through the Society's Court Education Network, groups can book their visits to numerous BC courthouses.

VictimsInfo.ca

www.VictimsInfo.ca now features updated site content and improved navigation. The website gives victims of, or witnesses to, a crime the resources and information they need to deal with the consequences of crime. Topics include Services for Victims, Reporting a Crime, Criminal Charges, Going to Court and Sentencing.



What Every Renter Needs to Know

What Every Renter Needs to Know is a series of videos that teach renters about their rights and responsibilities. Topics include Beginning of the Tenancy, Security and Pet Damage Deposits and Ending the Tenancy. The videos can be viewed on the Residential Tenancy Branch's website.

Downtown Community Court Videos

The Society produced three public legal education videos on Vancouver's Downtown Community Court (DCC):

- Introduction to the DCC
- The DCC – How it Works
- The DCC – Community Connection

The court, the first of its kind in Canada, takes a problem-solving approach to dealing with offenders who may have issues with health, homelessness, and drug addiction. The videos can be viewed at www.CommunityCourt.bc.ca.



FamiliesChange.ca

Originally launched in 2004, this acclaimed resource was given a fresh facelift, navigation was streamlined and new online resources were added.

www.FamiliesChange.ca provides information on separation and divorce for children, teens, parents and professionals. Animation, text, audio and video combine to help visitors better cope with divorce or separation. A professionals section is also included. The website is also available in French.



Support for the Society

Tribute Dinner for The Honourable Donald Brenner, QC

On January 21, a tribute dinner was held for The Honourable Donald Brenner, QC, former Chief Justice of the BC Supreme Court. The dinner was organized by the Canadian Bar Association - BC Branch in recognition of Mr. Brenner's professional and personal accomplishments.

Mr. Brenner graciously suggested that proceeds from the dinner be donated to the Justice Education Society and Access Pro Bono. The Society was honoured to be part of the event and would like to thank Mr. Brenner all those who made contributions.



From left to right:

- Jamie Maclaren, Executive Director, Access Pro Bono
- Allan Parker, QC, Associate Executive Director, Access Pro Bono
- The Honourable Donald Brenner, QC
- The Right Honourable Madam Chief Justice Beverley McLachlin, PC, Chief Justice of Canada
- Rick Craig, Executive Director, Justice Education Society
- The Honourable Judge Pedro de Couto, President, Justice Education Society

Photo credit: Patricia Jordan, The Canadian Bar Association BC Branch



"The Justice Education Society is unique in Canada and it sets the gold standard for justice and public legal education both locally and internationally. The organization certainly deserves widespread recognition and support for its excellent work."

The Honourable Madam Justice Risa Levine
Judge, Court of Appeal for British Columbia
Board Member, Justice Education Society

How You Can Help

Developing informed citizens is fundamental to promoting access to justice. Established in 1989, the Justice Education Society has pioneered public legal education in British Columbia for over 20 years by providing information and education on the justice system to schools and the general public.

There are many ways to help support the Society's mission. To donate **online**, please visit www.JusticeEducation.ca. To donate by **cheque**, please make it payable to "Justice Education Society of BC" and mail it to:

Justice Education Society
260-800 Hornby Street
Vancouver, B.C. V6Z 2C5

The Justice Education Society is a registered non-profit organization. All financial donations over \$25 CAD will receive a charitable tax receipt.

Events

Gang Wars: Justice in Our Times

On June 11, the Justice Education Society hosted a forum that featured experts on BC's gang problem. The forum was webcast live and an edited version was broadcast on Shaw TV. The panel examined the problem's seriousness as well as the solutions needed by our justice system and communities to take action against gangs. The forum was moderated by The Honourable Judge Pedro de Couto, the Society's President, and included:

- Superintendent Dan Malo, Officer in Charge, BC Integrated Gang Task Force
- Teresa R. Mitchell-Banks, QC, Deputy Director (Special Prosecutions), Ministry of the Attorney General
- Kim Bolan, Journalist, Vancouver Sun
- Theresa Campbell, Manager, Safe Schools, Surrey School District

Gang Wars: Justice in Our Times began with five articles in the Vancouver Sun that focused on the difficulties faced by our justice system and our communities as they respond to BC's gang problem. You can read the articles, which provide excellent background information prior to watching the forum, as well as the panelists' solutions at www.JusticeInOurTimes.ca.



Left: Audience members and cameras watch Judge de Couto ask panelists a question at Gang Wars: Justice In Our Times.

Top Right: Gang Wars panelists (Bolan, Mitchell-Banks, Malo and Campbell); Bottom Right: MLA Raj Chouhan asks the panelists a question during the Q&A period.

Photo credits: The Canadian Bar Association BC Branch

“The Vancouver Sun was pleased to partner with the Justice Education Society for a public forum on organized crime. The Society assembled a stellar expert panel for the televised event, which resulted in a lively and informative discussion on the challenges facing the justice system when combating gangs. This collaboration with the Justice Education Society was a great opportunity to go beyond the headlines to explore the root causes of organized crime and some possible solutions to the problem.”

Harold Munro
Deputy Managing Editor, Vancouver Sun

Teachers' Law Institute

On November 17, the Society's Lower Mainland West office hosted a Teachers' Law Institute. Sixteen teachers learned about a variety of law-related topics, including drug treatment and the Downtown Community Court. The teachers also went courtwatching and had meaningful dialogue with panels of provincial court judges, Crown and Defense Counsel and other justice system personnel. Learn more at www.TeachersLawInstitutes.ca

Rick Craig Joins Governor General on State Visit

Rick Craig, the Justice Education Society's Executive Director, was invited to be part of the Governor General's State Visit to Mexico, Guatemala and Costa Rica from December 6-15. Rick blogged about the trip on the Governor General's website: www.CitizenVoices.gg.ca (search "Rick Craig").



- Rick Craig (second from left) speaks on a panel about the rights of indigenous women in Chiapas, Mexico.
- © Her Majesty The Queen in Right of Canada represented by the Office of the Secretary to the Governor General (2009)
- Photo credit: Sgt Serge Gouin, Rideau Hall
- Reproduced with the permission of the Office of the Secretary to the Governor General

Rick and other delegates on the trip interacted with their Mexican, Guatemalan and Costa Rican counterparts as well as played an active role in Their Excellencies' meetings with civil society.

Domestic Violence in the South Asian Community

On June 18, the Society and City of Surrey presented Domestic Violence in the South Asian Community. Representatives from the Judiciary, Crown Counsel, RCMP, Probation and Social Services explored the South Asian community's resources and challenges through social and cultural dialogue. The discussion was moderated by City of Surrey Councillor Barinder Rasode. Audience members asked the panel questions and participated in the discussion.

Though the Heavens Fall Screenings

On March 22, over 50 people viewed a free screening of *Though the Heavens Fall*. The film was very well-received and followed inspiring speeches from The Honourable Judge Pedro de Couto and The Honourable Chief Justice Lance Finch. You can watch the video online at www.JusticeEducation.ca.

Additional events included:

- A private screening for current and retired Court of Appeal judges (and their survivors) on October 2.
- A debut on Knowledge Network on January 5, to coincide with the anniversary of the Court's first sitting in 1910. It played again on January 13 and future showings are scheduled for April 30 and May 3.
- It was shown at three schools in Victoria when judges visited as part of a Centenary event on January 8.
- At a Centenary gala dinner on April 23, an edited "trailer" was shown to 1,000 people, including numerous international and national guests, judges, lawyers, and the Chief Justice of Canada.

Art in the Court

On June 11, the Society, in partnership with Robson Square Provincial Court and the Vancouver School Board, launched Art in the Court. Over 100 people attended the unveiling of 36 art pieces, created by senior-level secondary students, that will reside in the Robson Square Provincial Court.

More installments are forthcoming. It is supported through financial donations and contributions of time.

"I enjoyed volunteering for the Justice Education Society because I love working in the law and it is fun to be able to pass some of that enthusiasm along to kids. Watching them perform the mock trial we'd written for them (R. v. Hades) with such gusto was a highlight of my clerkship."

I also liked working with adult groups because the questions they ask help you to see the law through an outsider's eyes, a perspective you tend to have lost by the time you graduate law school."

Krista Johanson
Law Clerk, Court of Appeal for BC

20th Anniversary Celebration

The Law Courts Education Society of BC celebrated its 20th anniversary on May 28 and announced it had changed its name to the Justice Education Society.

Wally Oppal, former Attorney General of BC and a past president of the Society, joined Executive Director Rick Craig in unveiling the Society's new name, logo and tagline: "Justice Through Knowledge." Craig also launched the Society's new website: www.JusticeEducation.ca.

Also at the celebration, Derek Wiebe, a criminal defence lawyer, was given the Hughes Award, which recognizes outstanding contributions to public legal education. Derek has worked on many projects with the Society, acting in videos (Your Voice in Criminal Court; www.AdminLawBC.ca), guest-speaking and leading research projects.



Clockwise from top left:

- Court Workers for the Court Information Program for Immigrants, Lali Pawa, Gurveen Atwal, Binh Luong and Financial Assistant Iris Luong;
- Rick Craig presents his "Top 10 Things About the Society";
- Wally Oppal, QC, and Rick Craig unveil the Society's new name and logo;
- Judge Pedro de Couto; Rick Craig; board member Mason Loh, QC; board member Margaret Ostrowski, QC; Wally Oppal, QC; and board members Madam Justice Risa Levine, Susanne Dahlin and Erika Ullrich;
- Derek Wiebe accepts the Hughes Award from Margaret Ostrowski, QC, and Evelyn Neaman, International Programs Manager;
- Chief Justice Lance Finch in conversation with Wally Oppal, QC;
- Carol Graham, former board member Richard Rondeau and Patricia Byrne, Provincial Programs Manager, in conversation.

Current Projects

SmallClaimsBC.ca

The Society is developing 10 “smart” court forms that will be online at www.SmallClaimsBC.ca. They are fillable online and will be integrated with the Ministry of the Attorney General’s Filing Assistant for Small Claims forms. The forms will be online in the Fall.

We are also expanding the website so its content is relevant to all areas of the province, rather than just municipalities within that court’s pilot program. New videos and information will be added in early 2011. Both projects are funded by The Law Foundation.



New Supreme Court Rules

On July 1, the Supreme Court of BC will introduce new civil and family rules that are meant to make the civil and family justice systems more responsive, accessible and efficient.

The Society will be publishing Guidebooks for Representing Yourself in Supreme Court Civil Matters – a series of 22 self-help manuals. The Society is also developing videos that will cover new procedures, rules and forms, as well as chambers applications.

The Society will launch www.SupremeCourtBC.ca, which will bring together a number of Supreme Court resources, including the new Guidebooks, annotated forms, videos and Court Tips for parents.

Vancouver Justice Access Centre to Open

On June 15, Vancouver’s Justice Access Centre will officially open. The Society manages www.SupremeCourtSelfHelp.bc.ca, which will be updated to include a broader range of information.

AdminLawBC.ca to Add Multilingual Resources

In April, www.AdminLawBC.ca, Canada’s premiere website on administrative law, will extend its audience by adding information and videos in four languages: English, Chinese (Simplified), Punjabi and Spanish.

Users will be able to read information and watch instructional videos in their own language to learn more about administrative law, tribunal hearings and preparing a case.



Online Parenting After Separation

In several municipalities throughout BC, a Parenting After Separation (PAS) course is delivered by various agencies to help parents and children deal with a family break up. With the development of Online PAS, residents in rural and remote communities will have access to this helpful workshop. The online course will be added to the parents section of www.FamiliesChange.ca, with the beta version to begin testing in September.

Immigrant PLEI Consortium

The Immigrant Public Legal Education and Information Consortium continues into its second year. The project’s first topics covered employment standards and residential tenancy. Workshops were held throughout the region and a new website developed by the Society, www.ImmigrantLegal.ca, has become a primary resource for immigrant service workers.

In the coming year, the Consortium will produce workshops and resources on the topics of family law and domestic violence.

Testimonials

“Students really like [the Justice System Education Program] - it’s a good way to get them interested in law. I’ve been taking them to the Main Street Courthouse for my entire teaching career and it provides students with a real look into the workings of the legal system...The JSEP program gives them a first opportunity to see its practical workings and they end up finding it exciting and unique in its own way. They tell me often that they feel engaged in the program and as a result, they want to go back to see more trials and learn more about the system.”

Greg Hockley

Vice Principal & Law 12 teacher, Windsor Secondary School



Above: Greg Hockley leads his Law 12 class through a lesson from Legal Independence: It's Your Right for Global TV.

Left: Students from Hockley's class work on an activity from Legal Independence: It's Your Right

Photo credits: Law Society of British Columbia



“I’m writing to thank you for your presentation at the courthouse. I was so impressed by your depth of knowledge; also, I was interested in your creative, helpful and educational orientation during the visit. Before the presentation, I hadn’t heard about the justice system in Canada, such as how many courts there are and who plays which roles during the court trials. Again, a thousand thanks for you.”

Sunny, high school student

“Volunteering with the Justice Education Society was thoroughly rewarding...The programs provided by the Society were clearly popular because they were relevant, interesting and fun. It was wonderful to be a part of the Society’s success in delivering such meaningful programming.”

Laura Duke

Former Law Clerk,
Court of Appeal for BC

“Unfortunately, one of the best tools the justice system has had for teaching the importance of the justice system (and in particular the role of the courts) to students in this province has been gutted...Without proper funding of the Justice Education Society, we will have lost one of our best educational tools for combating lack of confidence in the justice system.”

James M. Bond

President, The Canadian Bar Association
- BC Branch

Source: BarTalk, December 2009



International

The past year was extremely successful and busy for International Programs at the Justice Education Society. The framework for international programming was developed and consolidated into an effective operational unit. The unit has experienced a flux of activity with multi-funded projects in various stages of development.

International Programs now has a dedicated junior accountant to assist with financial management and has plans to hire a full-time project assistant to help deal with the increasing international workload.

In addition, the Society opened its Central America office in Guatemala City. This office coordinates programming and operations for Guatemala, El Salvador and Honduras.

Strengthening Effective Justice Systems

The Strengthening Effective Justice Systems project continues to expand in Central America. Memorandums of Understanding (MOU) have been signed by the Public Prosecutor's Office in Guatemala and El Salvador. Early in February, when the political situation normalized, an MOU was also signed with the Public Prosecutor's Office of Honduras in a ceremony that was attended by Peter Kent, Canada's Minister of State of Foreign Affairs.

A course on Crime Scene Examination was delivered for El Salvadorian and Honduran specialists; further training will take place 2010-2011. In addition, a needs assessment was held in Vancouver in January to prepare for an Oral Trial Training course for Guatemalan judicial officials in June 2010.

"This is the most successful project that I have ever seen in the justice sector. It has evolved to a point where the Ministry has taken ownership - a very unusual situation and a great one...it is rare to see an institution changing culture like it is happening now."

Myra Muralles Bautista, a project officer with OXFAM Great Britain, comments on the Justice Education Society's Guatemala program.

Lawyer Brings Ethiopian View to International Women's Day

Pioneering Ethiopian human rights lawyer and activist Semhal Getachew visited BC to commemorate International Women's Day. She shared stories of femicide and violence against women at the rally and conference in Vancouver on March 6.

The event was organized by a diverse group of organizations including Oxfam Canada and We Can BC. Recommendations from the conference will be presented to government representatives at the G8 meeting in June 2010.

On March 9, Getachew spoke at the University of Northern British Columbia along with Highway of Tears program coordinator Mavis Erickson. Getachew and Erickson shared stories of femicide in Ethiopia and murdered and missing Aboriginal women on the Highway of Tears in Northern BC.

Getachew also shared her experience volunteering for the Ethiopian Women Lawyers Association - an NGO in Ethiopia involved in legal reform and advocacy as well as legal aid public education.

Getachew's visit was a part of the Society's project to build the capacity of Ethiopia's justice system. The program is funded by the Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA).



Semhal Getachew speaks at an International Women's Day rally.

Mayan/Aboriginal Traditional Justice Knowledge Exchange

February marked the final phase of the Justice Education Society's Mayan/Aboriginal Traditional Justice Knowledge Exchange project. A Canadian delegation travelled to Guatemala to collaborate on restorative justice tools for Mayan youth in Guatemala and Aboriginal youth in BC.



Sandra Staats, a lawyer from Prince George, with Mayan delegates at the seminar in Guatemala.

The delegation presented restorative justice resources to over 100 Mayan people, including police, judges, victims, children and youth, spiritual leaders, indigenous councils, and women who had experienced domestic violence and family separation.

The final step is to adapt Peer Resolution Conferences for Youth, which uses Aboriginal restorative justice practices and principles, for use with the project.

Project Documentary

International Programs is pleased to announce the production of a documentary of the Mayan/Aboriginal Traditional Justice Knowledge Exchange project. The movie will detail the knowledge exchange between Guatemala and Northern BC.

Special Methods of Investigation project

Upon the request of the Public Prosecutor's Office in Guatemala, the Society put together a program on Special Methods of Investigation for Guatemalan authorities.

The project includes training on Criminal Intelligence Analysis, Wiretap, Surveillance, Undercover Operations, Controlled Deliveries, Source Development and Management, Forensic Video Analysis and Blood Spatter Analysis.

The Department of Foreign Affairs and International Trade's (DFAIT) Anti-Crime Fund has since asked the Society to develop a proposal for a project on Special Methods of Investigation in Guatemala, El Salvador and Honduras.

New Project in Mexico

During the Governor General's State Visit to Central America, the Canadian ambassador in Mexico asked for the Society's assistance in the region. As a result, DFAIT asked the Society to submit a proposal to conduct a needs assessment to see if and how the Society's model can be applied in Mexico.

Central American Crime: Justice in Our Times

On January 27, the Society hosted Central American Crime: Justice In Our Times as part of the annual "Judicial Community Liaison Program" for BC judges. The event focused on the international impact of crime in Central America and featured the Honourable Lic. Romeo Barahona, Attorney General of El Salvador, as the keynote speaker.



The Honourable Lic. Romeo Barahona, Attorney General of El Salvador, speaks at Central American Crime: Justice in Our Times.

Additional speakers included William Ramirez, the Society's Program Coordinator from Guatemala, Supt. Dan Malo of the BC Integrated Gang Task Force, as well as Marilyn G.D. from the Kiwassa Neighbourhood House's Domestic Violence Prevention Program.

The presentations and past events can be found on www.JusticeInOurTimes.ca. The project was funded by the Government of Canada through DFAIT.

Public Legal Education in Vietnam

International Programs is providing technical assistance on public legal education to Agriteam Canada's Judicial Development and Grassroots Engagement project in Vietnam. In December, Evelyn Neaman presented a seminar on "Best Practices in Public Legal Education" to representatives the Ministry of Justice, Department of Justice and women's, students' and farmers' unions.

Online Resources

Education



2009/10 visitors

1. www.JusticeEducation.ca.....51,160
2. www.CourtsofBC.ca23,472
3. www.LawConnection.ca.....3,434
4. www.YCJA.ca.....3,495
5. www.BCCitizenship.ca.....1,575
6. www.TeachersLawInstitutes.ca 536
7. www.LegalRights4U.ca.....3,487
8. www.SurvivingThePast.ca.....2,250
9. www.ItsTimeAfrica.org..... 821
10. www.JusticeInOurTimes.ca.....4,195





Self-Help



2009/10 visitors

1.	www.SupremeCourtBC.ca	Coming soon
2.	www.SmallClaimsBC.ca	40,454
3.	www.AdminLawBC.ca	6,403
4.	www.SupremeCourtSelfHelp.ca	est. Mar/10
5.	www.FamiliesChange.ca	14,681
6.	www.CourtTips.ca	6,505
7.	www.KidsBC.ca	3,237
8.	www.APASBC.ca	366

Toolkits



2009/10 visitors

1. www.VictimsInfo.ca..... 14,386
2. www.ImmigrantLegal.ca est. Mar. 2010
3. www.CourtInformation.ca est. Mar. 2010
4. www.CourtChoices.ca..... 927
5. www.APASBC.ca 366
6. www.WeCanBC.ca 5,236

Financial Statements

Balance Sheet as at March 31, 2010	2010	2009
Current Assets		
Cash	\$398,131	\$531,828
Accounts Receivable	574,821	633,207
Prepaid Expenses	78,199	51,064
	<u>\$1,051,151</u>	<u>\$1,216,099</u>
Property and Equipment	<u>27,977</u>	<u>25,255</u>
	<u>\$1,079,128</u>	<u>\$1,241,354</u>
Current Liabilities		
Accounts Payable and Accrued Liabilities	\$175,712	\$253,220
Deferred Revenue	92,303	307,185
	<u>\$268,015</u>	<u>\$560,405</u>
Net Assets		
Core Funding - General	\$210,780	\$180,169
- Restricted to Property and Equipment	27,977	25,255
Projects	416,100	319,386
Publication and video sales	156,256	156,139
	<u>\$811,113</u>	<u>\$680,949</u>
	<u>1,079,128</u>	<u>\$1,241,354</u>

Statement of Surplus (Deficit) for the year ended March 31, 2010

	Balance at March 31, 2009	Revenues	Expenditures	Net	Balance at March 31, 2010
Specialized Web Resources	\$125,438	\$20,000	\$42,424	\$(22,424)	\$103,014
International Programs	68,654	72,015	42,626	29,389	98,043
Families Change Website	-	21,333	21,333	-	-
Pickton Trial Website for the Families	-	3,713	3,713	-	-
Air India Families Website (Apr/09 - Mar/10)	-	2,311	2,311	-	-
User-Focus Website for Individual Victims/Witnesses	-	-	-	-	-
Web Tool for Suggesting Terms of Release for Police - Bail Options	(7,408)	12,408	5,000	7,408	-
Courts of BC - An Introduction for British Columbians	-	-	-	-	-
Self-Help Information Centre - Rural Needs Assessment	725	5,203	5,928	(725)	-
Dealing with Finances After Separation - Legal Education Project	12,154	3,607	15,761	(12,154)	-
International - Counter-Terrorism Capacity Building Program	-	-	-	-	-
Access to Justice Forums	-	-	-	-	-
100th Anniversary of the Court of Appeal Video	4,697	54,178	58,875	(4,697)	-
International - Guaranteed Human Rights by Building Effective Justice System Program	(38)	653,527	653,489	38	-
Gangs Video	-	-	-	-	-
High Conflict Parenting After Separation	82	957	1,039	(82)	-
We Can End Violence Campaign (Phase 2)	-	-	-	-	-
We Can End Violence Campaign (Phase 3)	-	-	-	-	-
Capital/Infrastructure Grant (Expanded Core Services)	-	-	-	-	-
Capital/Infrastructure Grant (Northern PLEI)	-	-	-	-	-
Crime Prevention Toolkit	-	-	-	-	-
International - Joining Hands Against Domestic Violence: South Africa, Ethiopia, and Canada (Public Engagement Project)	(35,993)	38,054	2,061	35,993	-
Community Participation in Family Relations Act Review Project	-	-	-	-	-
Administrative Law Website Project	-	-	-	-	-
Judicial Independence & Independence of Lawyers Project	(1,102)	6,772	5,670	1,102	-
Small Claims Court Pilot Program - Educational Resources	-	-	-	-	-
BC Law and Citizenship Curriculum Assessment Project	62,630	98,242	123,222	(24,980)	37,650
BC Teacher Law and Citizenship Institutes Project	18,399	21,375	39,774	(18,399)	-
Aboriginal Parenting After Separation	5,147	-	17	(17)	5,130
Administrative Law Website Project - Law Foundation Portion	24,628	29,600	54,228	(24,628)	-
BCSSTA Law Project	(20,790)	33,000	12,210	20,790	-
Community Courts Specialized Educational Resources	22,171	44,500	66,671	(22,171)	-
Finances After Separation Sessions	(11,884)	22,829	10,945	11,884	-
Justice in Our Times	(72)	14,544	4,472	10,072	10,000
Children and Parents After Separation Program (Phase 1)	21,371	14,854	36,225	(21,371)	-
Children and Parents After Separation Program (Phase 2)	-	70,146	66,635	3,511	3,511
Kids in Divorce and Separation	-	-	-	-	-
Residential Tenancy Branch Website	6,336	-	6,336	(6,336)	-
Small Claims Court Filing Assistant Support	31,951	69,000	78,455	(9,455)	22,496
Victims' Week	-	-	-	-	-
We Can B.C. - India Exchange	-	-	-	-	-
We Can End Violence Core Project	(5,373)	43,064	6,661	36,403	31,030
Working with Aboriginal Communities to Promote Family Law in B.C.	-	-	-	-	-
A Tool Kit for Aboriginal Community Intermediaries	-	-	-	-	-
International - Ministerio Publico Training Course	-	-	-	-	-
International - Special Investigative Methods	(42,683)	554,931	512,248	42,683	-
International - Aboriginal-Mayan Exchange	40,346	48,500	80,254	(31,754)	8,592
Admin Law BC - Accessibility for All	-	15,777	15,777	-	-
Alberta Aboriginal Legal Education Centre Website	-	9,600	9,600	-	-
City of Prince George - Development of Community Assessment and Action Network (CAAN)	-	77,000	22,763	54,237	54,237
Enhanced Parenting After Separation Online Project	-	42,000	42,000	-	-
Gangs Website	-	24,900	24,900	-	-
Judicial Independence (Law Society)	-	15,000	6,600	8,400	8,400
PLEI for Immigrants Program - Year 1	-	598,572	598,572	-	-
PLEI Portal - Content Development	-	40,000	40,000	-	-
PLEI Portal - Technical Support	-	25,000	25,000	-	-
Supreme Court PLEI Website	-	45,000	11,000	34,000	34,000
We Can Summer Students Program	-	13,060	13,060	-	-
We Can End All Violence Against Women - BC Campaign	-	40,000	40,000	-	-
	<u>\$319,386</u>	<u>\$2,904,572</u>	<u>\$2,807,855</u>	<u>\$96,717</u>	<u>\$416,103</u>
CORE FUNDING (including restricted to property and equipment)	205,424	1,768,323	1,734,990	33,333	238,757
PUBLICATION AND VIDEO SALES	156,139	13,352	13,235	117	156,256
	<u>\$680,949</u>	<u>\$4,686,247</u>	<u>\$4,556,080</u>	<u>\$130,167</u>	<u>\$811,116</u>

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 April Kennedy
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Funders

- The Law Foundation of BC
- Ministry of Attorney General
- Canadian International Development Agency
- Department of Foreign Affairs and International Trade
- RCMP
- Department of Justice
- City of Vancouver
- Knowledge Network
- The Notary Foundation of BC
- The Vancouver Foundation
- Law Society of BC
- Native Counselling Services of Alberta
- Ministry of Public Safety and Solicitor General
- Vancouver & District Labour Council
- BC Teachers Federation
- Chan Sisters Foundation
- Hospital Employees Union
- Vancity Credit Union
- Health Sciences Association of BC
- Human Resources Development Canada



“As a clerk, volunteering with Justice Education is a way of sharing some of the insights gained from working closely with the judges with people who do not have that kind of intimate access to the judicial system...I particularly liked working with elementary school students and sitting in on their mock trials because they have an enthusiasm and an awe about the law that is not always present in the more jaded members of the Bar!”

Mathew Good
 Former Law Clerk,
 Court of Appeal for BC

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