

A photograph of two women sitting at a table, engaged in a conversation. The woman on the left is looking down, and the woman on the right is pointing towards something on the table. The image is dimmed with a blue overlay.

# **Free Legal Services in BC: Community Legal Assistance Society Programs**



Community Legal  
Assistance Society



# Objectives

- 1. Introduce Community Legal Assistance Society (“CLAS”) and our programs.**
- 2. Discuss CLAS services and how to access them.**
- 3. Review opportunities for lawyers and advocates to get involved.**



Community Legal  
Assistance Society

Image 3

- Non-profit organization since 1971
- Work to advance the law to address the critical needs of those who are disadvantaged or face discrimination

# **CLAS Programs**

The background of the slide features a photograph of two women in an office environment. One woman, wearing glasses and a teal shirt, is pointing towards a document on a desk. The other woman, in a dark blazer, is looking at the document. The image is dimmed to allow the text to stand out.

- **Community Law Program (CLP)**
- **Mental Health Law Program (MHLP)**
- **BC Human Rights Clinic (BCHRC)**
- **Community Advocate Support Line (CASL)**
- **Sexual Harassment Advice, Response, and Prevention for Workplaces (SHARP Workplaces)**

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# Community Law Program

("CLP")



Community  
Law Program

# **CLP Assistance**

- **Potential clients must:**
  - **Pursue all options to resolve their legal problem short of court.**
- **CLP lawyers can:**
  - **Provide summary legal advice**
  - **Assist further based on capacity and merits of the case.**

# CLP Referrals

**If CLP is contacted before a person needs to go to court, CLP will refer to an appropriate resource but cannot assist for:**

- **Eviction notices**
- **MSDPR decisions that may be wrong**
- **WCB or WorkSafeBC decisions**
- **Detainment under the civil Mental Health Act**



# CLP Contact Information

Image 7

**Online Form:**

**<https://judicialreviewbc.ca/askaquestion/>**

**General Inquiry:**

**[contact@clasbc.net](mailto:contact@clasbc.net)**

**604-685-3425**

**1-888-685-6222 (toll free)**



# 2 Mental Health Law Program

(“MHLP ”)



Mental Health  
Law Program

# MHLP Assistance

MHLP may be able to help in the following situations:

- Review panel hearing under the *Mental Health Act*.
- *Criminal Code* Review Board hearing.
- Challenge Mental Health Review Board or *Criminal Code* Review Board decisions.

# MHLP Ad Hoc

- To join MHLP's roster of ad hoc lawyers, email supervising lawyer Diane Nielsen: [dnielsen@clasbc.net](mailto:dnielsen@clasbc.net)
- Lawyers must have a Legal Aid BC vendor number to be added to MHLP's roster.

# MHLP Contact Information

Image 7

**General Inquiry:**

**[contact@clasbc.net](mailto:contact@clasbc.net)**

**604-685-3425**

**1-888-685-6222 (toll free)**

# 3 BC Human Rights Clinic

(“BCHRC ”)

# **BCHRC Services**

- **Information (telephone line)**
- **Short-Service Clinic (Mondays, 30 minutes)**
- **Legal Advice and Representation by application**
- **Education Workshops**

# BCHRC Applications

Image 10

## Different levels of assistance:

- Summary advice
- 1-2 hours of legal assistance
- Legal representation (mediation, hearing)

## Accepted BCHRT complaint:

### Factors considered:

- Person's income
- Ability to self-represent
- Timely application
- Clinic capacity



# **BCHRC Contact Information**

Image 7

**Website: <https://bchrc.net/>**

**Info. Line: 604-622-1100 or 1-855-685-6222 toll free  
e-mail: [infobchrc@clasbc.net](mailto:infobchrc@clasbc.net)**

**Legal Services: [intakebchrc@clasbc.net](mailto:intakebchrc@clasbc.net)**

A woman with dark hair is talking on a white smartphone. In the background, a young child is looking at a tablet. The image is dimmed and serves as a background for the title.

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# Community Advocate Support Line

(“CASL ”)



Community  
Advocate  
Support Line

# **CASL Services**

- **Legal support service specifically for poverty law advocates and community workers across BC**
- **CASL contact information is not public, as it does not serve the public.**



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# Sexual Harassment Advice, Response & Prevention for Workplaces

(“SHARP Workplaces ”)

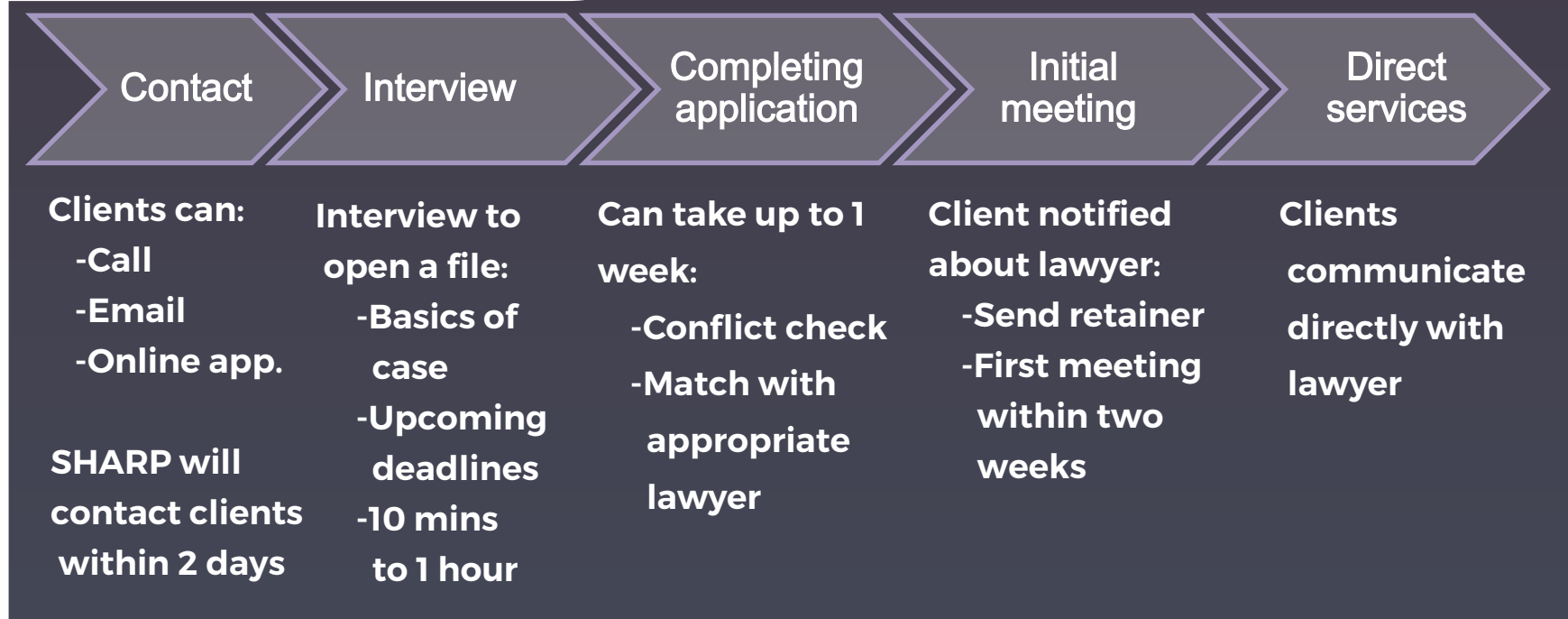
**SHARP**  
WORKPLACES

# **SHARP Workplaces Legal Clinic Services**

Image 12

- **Five hours free, confidential legal advice from a lawyer**
- **Available to anyone in BC who has experienced sexual harassment at work**
- **Services provide by staff and roster lawyers**

# SHARP Workplaces Intake Process



# **SHARP Workplaces**

## **Approach**

- **Holistic, trauma-informed approach.**
- **Staff and lawyers are receive training.**
- **Referrals to support services.**  
**E.g. counselling, employment services.**
- **Developing our referral network**

Image 4

# **SHARP Workplaces**

## **Public Education**

Image 2

- **Education and training available to:**
  - **Non-profits**
  - **Indigenous organizations**
  - **Small businesses**
- **In partnership with Ending Violence Association of BC**



# **SHARP Workplaces Roster Opportunity**

Image 3

- **Currently recruiting lawyers province-wide for roster.**
  - **Commitment of four cases / year.**
- **Compensated on Legal Aid BC rates.**
- **Preferred: relevant practice experience, experience with underserved or vulnerable populations.**
- **Training will be provided.**

# **SHARP Workplaces**

## **Contact Information**

Image 7

**Legal Clinic: 604-673-3143 or 1-888-685-6222 (toll free)**

**SHARPWorkplaces@clasbc.net**

**Website: <https://clasbc.net/get-legal-help/sexual-harassment-in-the-workplace/>**

**Education and Training: 604-682-8820**

**education@endingviolence.org**

# Eligibility Overview

Image 8

- Each CLAS program has its own eligibility criteria.
  - CLP, MHLP and HRC considers income
  - CASL and SHARP do not
- Contact specific program to find out if client qualifies

# CLAS Funders



**Legal Aid BC**  
Support when you need it



# Presenters' Contacts

**Jennifer Khor**

604-673-3116

[jkhor@clasbc.net](mailto:jkhor@clasbc.net)

**Coral Lyster**

604-673-3115,

[clyster@clasbc.net](mailto:clyster@clasbc.net)



# **CLAS Contact Information**

Image 7

**300-1140 West Pender Street  
Vancouver, BC. V6E 4G1  
Located on Coast Salish Territories**

**Phone: 604-685-3425**

**Toll Free: 1-888-685-6222**

**Website: <https://clasbc.net/>**

# Thank you!



# Image

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