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# MEDIA RELEASE

## Court of Appeal Launches the Court of Appeal Legal Assistance Clinic *Clinic to help self-represented litigants with their appeals*

**St. John's, NL, June 09, 2016:** The Supreme Court of Newfoundland and Labrador – Court of Appeal announced today that the Court will be launching a pilot project – the Court of Appeal Legal Assistance Clinic.

The Legal Assistance Clinic is intended to offer assistance to litigants without a lawyer who wish to have some legal advice about their appeal. The Clinic will offer free 30 minute appointments with volunteer lawyers who practice in Newfoundland and Labrador.

The Court hopes that the Legal Assistance Clinic will promote access to justice and legal education.

"The Court is concerned that unrepresented litigants are often hampered in presenting their cases without a lawyer's advice and this may impact their chances of success and undermines the administration of justice" said the Chief Justice of Newfoundland and Labrador, Derek Green, "It is also a great opportunity for the lawyers of this province to give back to the community."

Minister of Justice and Public Safety, Andrew Parsons, praised both the Court of Appeal and pro bono lawyers for this collaboration. He is hopeful that this combined initiative will help unrepresented litigants with cases before the Court of Appeal.

Kathy Blake, Deputy Registrar of the Court of Appeal, commented that "the rising cost of litigation, as well as other factors, makes representation for many litigants very difficult. This clinic will provide Newfoundlanders and Labradorians, who have legal problems and who otherwise cannot afford counsel, with an opportunity to permit them to better represent their cases in court where the processes can seem entirely foreign."

The first clinic will take place on June 23, 2016, from 6:30-9:30. To sign up for a 30-minute appointment, please email [calac@supreme.court.nl.ca](mailto:calac@supreme.court.nl.ca)