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# MEDIA RELEASE

## First Court of Appeal Legal Assistance Clinic a success

*Clinic helps self-represented litigants with their appeals*

**St. John's, NL, July 19, 2016:** On June 23, 2016 the Supreme Court of Newfoundland and Labrador – Court of Appeal launched the Court of Appeal Legal Assistance Clinic, a pilot project intended to promote access to justice and legal education.

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

The clinic was created by the Court of Appeal with the assistance of volunteer lawyers from the Legal Aid Commission of Newfoundland and Labrador and the private bar and continues to enjoy the support of the Law Society of Newfoundland and Labrador, the Canadian Bar Association, Newfoundland and Labrador branch and the Public Legal Information Association of Newfoundland and Labrador.

The first clinic was a resounding success, with all appointments fully booked. Two lawyers and an articling student from the Legal Aid Commission of Newfoundland and Labrador volunteered their services for 3 hours and assisted persons with a variety of legal problems involving family, criminal and civil law.

Minister of Justice and Public Safety, Andrew Parsons, congratulated the court on this initiative. "I am delighted that members of the Newfoundland and Labrador bar are participating in this pro bono service. It is a credit to the lawyers who recognize the role that they, and others, can play in making justice more accessible for our citizens."

Given the high demand for the Clinic's services, the Court intends to make the clinic a regular event.

The next clinic will take place on Thursday, August 11, 2016, from 5:30-8:30. To sign up for an appointment, please email [calac@supreme.court.nl.ca](mailto:calac@supreme.court.nl.ca)