

Complaints Authorization Committee

Practice Standard

Branch Offices

Complaints Authorization Committee Meeting November 13, 2001

Benchers' Notes December 2001

The *Law Society Act, 1999*, section 78 prescribes that a member shall not open or maintain a branch office for the practice of law in the province unless the office is under the personal and actual control and management of a member in good standing.

The Complaints Authorization Committee interprets *personal and actual control* to mean that a branch office cannot be open when a lawyer is not in attendance. Members are reminded that acting contrary to this statutory requirement may result in disciplinary sanctions.