

Message from the Chair of the Disciplinary Panel

Members of the Disciplinary Panel:

I write in my capacity as chair of the disciplinary panel to highlight a new initiative of the Law Society of Newfoundland and Labrador: mandatory adjudicator training for members of the disciplinary panel.

The Federation of Law Societies of Canada sets National Discipline Standards to promote best practices and high standards of performance. As a participating jurisdiction, the Law Society of Newfoundland and Labrador strives to achieve these standards.

Standard 21 outlines the objective of having ongoing mandatory training for all adjudicators. In an effort to achieve this objective, the Law Society has purchased licences for the Law Society of Alberta's Adjudicator Training Program.

At their June 2020 meeting, Benchers approved a policy requiring members of the disciplinary panel to complete the mandated portions of the adjudicator training program on or before June, 2021 or within one year of their appointment to the disciplinary panel. Members of the panel who fail to complete the mandated portions of the program on or before June 2021, or within one year of their appointment, will not be eligible to be appointed to an adjudication tribunal and their appointment to the disciplinary panel will be brought before Benchers for review.

While the program was developed for the Law Society of Alberta, much of the content is universal to all adjudication tribunals. While you are free to review all material in the program, the policy only requires that you review the mandated portions of the adjudicator training program. The mandated portions of the adjudicator training program are:

- Modules 3-10, inclusive
- Module 11 (Videos 8 and 11 only)
- Module 12 (Videos 3 and 8-11 only)

A link to the Adjudicator Training Program, along with other resources, can be found on the Law Society's website at <https://lsnl.ca/public/discipline/disciplinary-panel-resources/>. I suggest that you review the program in consultation with the [Law Society Act, 1999](#) (particularly s.41-55.3) and the [Law Society Rules](#) (particularly Rule 9). As additional materials are added to the website or the Adjudicator Training Program, you will be notified. A separate email will follow with your username and password for the program.

I recognize that reviewing the mandated material is a big time commitment, as there are approximately 14 hours of material to be viewed. Considering this, I encourage those of you that are members of the Law Society to apply this time towards your Mandatory Continuing Legal Education Requirements.

I thank you for your ongoing commitment to the disciplinary panel.

Regards,
David Eaton, Q.C.
Chair of the Disciplinary Panel