

ELC Shared Articles

Information for Law Firms and Organizations

Students traditionally article for nine months with one firm and one principal. Shared Articles offer a non-traditional style of articling, which may take on one of four different forms, as defined by the Law Society of BC (LSBC) (see <http://www.cba.org/BC/Initiatives/articles/faq.aspx>).

The UVic Environmental Law Centre's shared articling program uses assigned articles where the student transfers articles to a new principal roughly half way (21 weeks) through their articling term. This program has been operating successfully since January 2007.

Benefits

FOR THE FIRM OR ORGANIZATION

- Obtain an articulated student who has had the unique background experience of articling with the ELC.
- Split salaries, benefits, and Law Society fees.
- Share an articulated student when there is insufficient work to employ one for the full nine-month term.
- Ensure articling students are exposed to three areas of practice as required by the Law Society even though your firm is small or specialized.
- Attract more students to firms outside the Lower Mainland and Victoria with the offer of partial articles based in Victoria.
- Fill gaps in the year created by articling students with a shortened term due to clerking.

FOR THE STUDENT

- Obtain the benefit of working with more than one principal.
- Enjoy the unique experience of working in public interest law and with a different firm to round out the articling experience.
- Receive a broad range of training while experiencing firms that are varied in size and practice areas.
- Discover another community by combining articles with a firm outside the Lower Mainland or Victoria.
- Choose from more articling opportunities as firms that may not have previously hired an articulated student for a full nine-month term are offering partial articles.

Logistics

- To assign articles to a second principal, the student applies to the LSBC (Rule 2-39).
- All other LSBC requirements remain the same, including the Articling Agreement and the Practice Skills Checklist.
- Mid-term and Final reports and documentation are generally divided between the two principals.
- The student co-ordinates with their principals about when to take the Professional Legal Training Course (PLTC).
- The parties negotiate start dates that work for each firm.
- Payment of salary and benefits are determined by the parties involved. The ELC pays half of the student's LSAP and PLTC fees and half of the student's regular ELC salary during PLTC.
- The parties involved ensure that potential conflicts of interest and issues of confidentiality are addressed.

Resources

Member Services Department, Law Society of BC
845 Cambie St, Vancouver, BC V6B 4Z9; (604) 605-5311;
memberinfo@lsbc.org

Additional information regarding LSBC requirements:
http://www.cba.org/BC/initiatives/articles/lsbc_program.aspx#lsap

Canadian Bar Association BC Branch Shared Articles database:
<http://www.cba.org/BC/Initiatives/articles/default.aspx>



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