

Justice Sector Constellation
Synopsis Update
June 20, 2019



Background

The Justice Sector Constellation (the “**Constellation**”) seeks to intervene at the intersection of poverty and the legal system so that everyone facing a legal issue can access the justice sector resources and services he or she needs. The Constellation has been working to this end since April 2013, after issuing its report *Intervening at the Intersection of Poverty and the Legal System* (see at http://enoughforall.ca/wp-content/uploads/2016/05/JSC_FinalReport_2013.pdf).

Update

Since the last Synopsis Update, the Constellation has advanced its work on a number of fronts. This update focuses on training opportunities developed by or initiated by the Constellation, including the Poverty and the Legal System Educational Module currently being developed.

	Intermediaries Training¹	Legal Advice versus Legal Information	Poverty Law Course for Legal Professionals
Target audience	Service providers and intermediaries such as community and faith community workers and volunteers outside of the justice sector	Service providers within the justice sector who provide legal information	Lawyers, articling students, law students and other legal professionals
Purpose	To help those outside of the justice sector to recognize the legal issues of clients and know where to refer clients for assistance. The anticipated outcome is more appropriate and timely referrals for clients to the resources they need.	To help service providers whose job involves providing legal information to recognize the distinction between legal advice and legal information. The anticipated outcome is that service providers will provide clients with as much legal information as possible, so clients will obtain the legal information they need sooner.	To help legal professionals develop the cultural and professional competencies required to properly serve disadvantaged and marginalized clients. The anticipated outcome is improved process and outcomes for marginalized populations in addressing the legal issues they face.
Duration	Half-day to full day	One hour	Half-day
Presented by	Centre for Public Legal Education	Practice Advisor, Law Society of Alberta	Various educators and practitioners
Cost	Free	Free	Free
Availability	Sessions are currently being scheduled for later in 2019.	Sessions are currently being scheduled for later in 2019.	No sessions are currently scheduled.

¹ Eligible for Alberta College of Social Work Professional Development credits.

In addition to these opportunities, the Constellation is currently working with educators from four post-secondary institutions in Calgary to develop an educational module regarding the intersection of poverty and the legal system, to sensitize students to the issues that arise at the intersection of poverty and the legal system. The anticipated outcome is that these students will be better equipped to serve their clients and communities on graduation.

The module will be made available to instructors at post-secondary institutions in various faculties and departments, including criminal justice and criminology, social work, nursing, sociology, education, psychology, and children and youth.

The module will outline the Canadian context of poverty, the causes of poverty and the impact of poverty; and conclude with how poverty and the legal system intersect. The content may be presented in three hours, so that the module may be included in existing courses at various institutions and educational programs.

Funding for the module has been provided by the Enough for All Catalyst Fund. The module is expected to be available in autumn 2019.