



Law Society Innovation Sandbox

At the September 2020 Benchers meeting ...

The Futures Task Force recommended that “... *the Benchers need to authorize regulatory sandboxes* to allow innovations, which may be illegal or unethical under current regulations, to be piloted and evaluated in a controlled environment.”

The Licensed Paralegal Task Force observed “... that the amendments to the *Legal Profession Act* have been in a holding pattern for almost two years, and it is time to move forward with a program of expanded service provision with a path towards licensing. For the reasons contained in this report, *the Task Force recommends the Law Society further develop what we call a grass roots sandbox approach* ...”

The recommendations were accepted by the Benchers.

The Law Society website provides potential proponents with information about the Innovation Sandbox initiative and provides a link to an online form that allows proponents to provide information about their proposal.

The screenshot shows a web browser window with the URL <https://www.lawsociety.bc.ca/our-initiatives/innovation-sandbox/>. The page features a dark blue header with the Law Society of British Columbia crest on the right and a breadcrumb trail: HOME / OUR INITIATIVES / INNOVATION SANDBOX. The main heading is "Innovation Sandbox". Below this is a large graphic with a blue background, a dashed line, and several paper airplanes. To the right of the graphic is a text box stating: "The Law Society is accepting proposals from interested individuals, businesses and organizations." The left sidebar contains navigation links: MENU, SEARCH, MEMBER PORTAL, LAWYER DIRECTORY, SHARE, and TOP.

The proposal form invites proponents to answer a series of questions directed at ensuring the proposals are addressing the unmet legal needs of BC residents, who is expected to benefit from the service, how will any risks be managed and what ability the proponents have to provide the services.

The screenshot shows a web browser window with the URL <https://www.lawsociety.bc.ca/lsrc/apps/forms/legalserviceproposal/proposal-form.cfm>. The page title is "Legal Services Innovation Sandbox" and the breadcrumb navigation is "HOME / OUR INITIATIVES / INNOVATION SANDBOX". The main heading is "Proposal".

The form content includes:

- A navigation menu on the left with "MENU", "SEARCH", "MEMBER PORTAL", "SHARE", and "TOP".
- A breadcrumb trail: HOME / OUR INITIATIVES / INNOVATION SANDBOX.
- A large heading: "Legal Services Innovation Sandbox".
- A sub-heading: "Proposal".
- Introductory text: "Please complete as much of this form as you can. This will assist us in a timely evaluation of your proposal. We may require further information following our initial review of your proposal."
- A note: "* Required Field".
- A question: "Please tell us about the legal service you intend to provide. *".
- A text input field.
- A question: "How do you expect that your legal service will address the unmet legal needs of BC residents?".
- A text input field.
- A question: "Who do you think will be the consumers of the legal service you intend to provide?".
- A text input field.
- A question: "How would you manage the risk to the public arising from the legal service you intend to provide, including with any relevant credentials, education, training or experience you may have?".
- A text input field.

After a proposal is submitted, it is reviewed by staff and additional information is obtained if necessary to clarify the proposal.

Once the proposal is finalized, it is then considered by a staff working group to develop a recommendation and submission to the Executive Committee

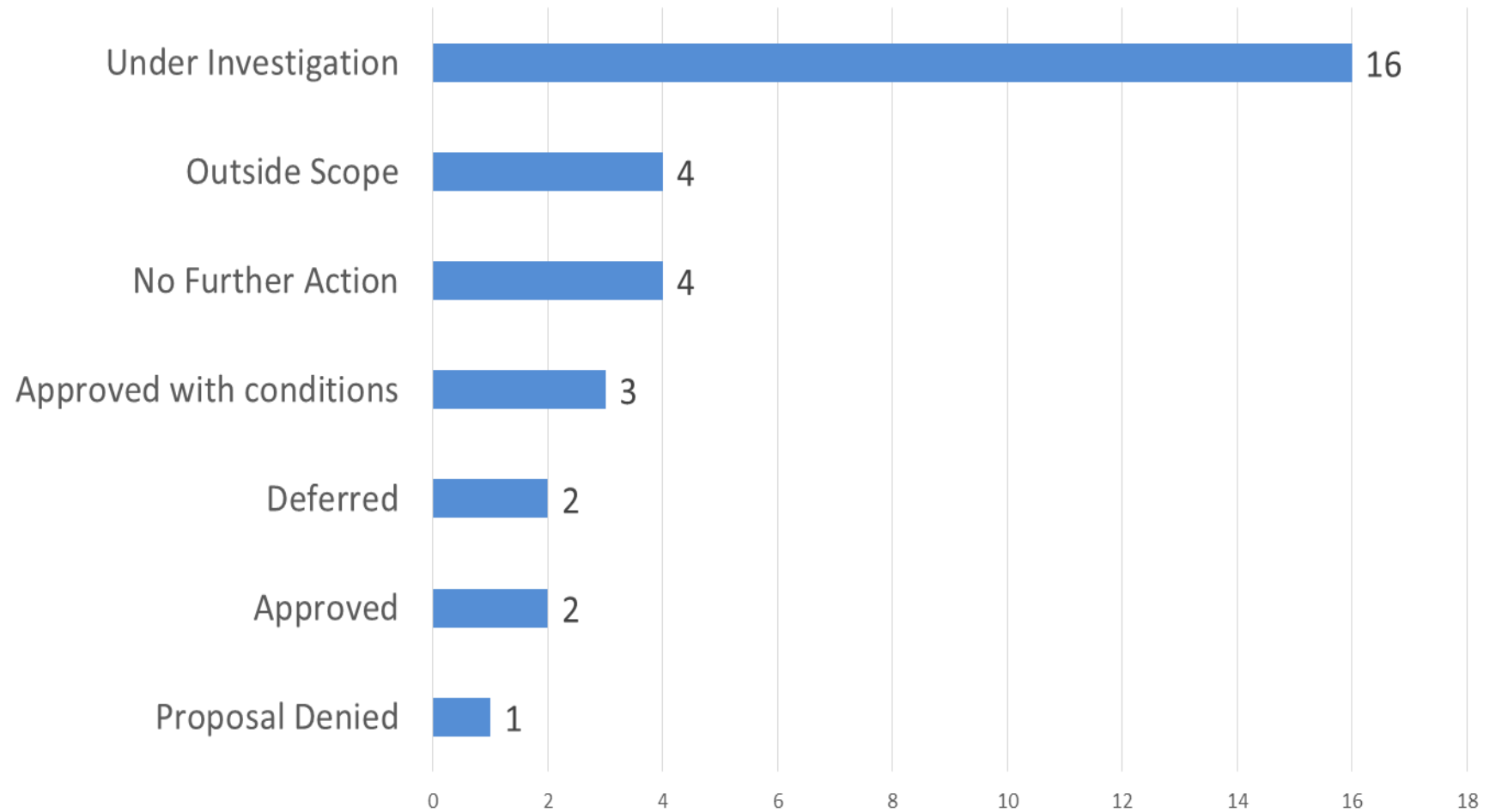
The Executive Committees considers the proposal and the working group recommendation and decides on the proposal

- Need
- Ability
- Risk

To date, we have received 32 proposals covering a wide range of potential services

- *legal advice and assistance for persons with dementia and their families*
- *legal coaching*
- *lawyer referral services*
- *a virtual legal clinic*
- *online wills services*
- *advice on strata property matters*
- *legal research using artificial intelligence*
- *representation/counsel services in small claims court and administrative tribunals*

Of the 32 proposals, half have been considered by the Executive Committee and the remainder are still under investigation



Proponents and proposals approved for participation in our innovation sandbox will receive a “no action” letter tailored to the particulars of their proposal setting out the Law Society’s expectations and requiring regular reporting on the services they provide.



As the Law Society continues to consider and approve (or reject) proposals, we will be developing information on the Law Society website (much like our Lawyer Directory) to identify for the public the proponents and proposals that have been considered and decided by the Executive Committee and provide information about the services the successful proponents may provide and what to do if there is a concern about their services.

Lawyer Directory

https://www.lawsociety.bc.ca/lsrc/apps/lkup/mbr-search.cfm

HOME / WORKING WITH LAWYERS AND HOW THE JUSTICE SYSTEM / LAWYER DIRECTORY

Alternate Legal Service Providers ~~Lawyer~~ Directory

SEARCH

MEMBER PORTAL

SHARE

TOP

The Lawyer Directory is a searchable tool that you can use to help you find the names, contact information and current practice status of lawyers licensed in BC.

For the best results, type the lawyer's last name only, in full or in part.

Search results will also include if the lawyer has a discipline history or restriction from practising in an area of law, as well as any current regulatory proceedings.

Additional information may be found at [Current citations and hearings](#) and in our [Hearing decisions and admissions database](#). You can also search our list of unauthorized practitioners in our [Unauthorized Practitioners database](#).

As the regulators of lawyers, the Law Society cannot provide referrals. If you are looking to find a lawyer for the purposes of obtaining legal advice, visit [Finding a lawyer](#).

Last name (required): starts with

First name or first initial (optional):

City (optional):

Search

For detailed information about this directory, read [Lawyer Directory Important Notice](#)

It is still early days but we are hopeful that our innovation sandbox initiative will provide the opportunity to identify and evaluate alternative legal service providers and provide the groundwork for more formal recognition of providers as contemplated by the Futures Task Force and the Licensed Paralegal Task Force.



Questions?