



July 30, 2021

Sent via E-mail

John Charles Wesley McDonald

Email: john@albertacourtagent.ca

Donald J. Avison, QC
Executive Director/Chief Executive Officer

Dear Mr. McDonald:

RE: Innovation Proposal – AP20200016

Thank you for your proposal to participate in the Law Society of British Columbia's ("LSBC") Innovation Sandbox.

Through the Innovation Sandbox, LSBC is seeking to expand access to legal services by enabling innovative solutions that address areas of unmet legal need but which would otherwise contravene the *Legal Profession Act*, the Law Society Rules or the Code of Professional Conduct.

The LSBC Executive Committee has reviewed your proposal to provide services and has agreed to issue to you this "no action" letter.

1. Services

You propose to offer the following services (the "Services"):

- 1.1 Acting as the client's advocate throughout the litigation process by providing legal advice, conducting legal research, drafting and filing documents, entering into settlement negotiations and making appearances in each of:

- a) the Civil Resolution Tribunal;
- b) the Residential Tenancy Branch; and
- c) the Employment Standards Tribunal.

1.2 Small Claims Matters:

- a) Meeting with clients;
- b) Conducting legal research;
- c) Preparing and filing documents such as pleadings, statements and affidavits;
- d) Assisting with document disclosure;
- e) Engaging in settlement negotiation; and
- f) Assisting the client with trial preparation.

2. No Action

Based on your proposal (copy attached) and any additional information you provided or LSBC obtained in relation to your proposal, LSBC will not initiate action to prevent you from providing the Services (“no-action”) provided the following conditions are met:

- 2.1 The information you have provided in support of your proposal is accurate and complete in all respects.
- 2.2 Only you provide the Services.
- 2.3 Your provision of the Services does not present a risk of harm to the public or undermine the integrity of the administration of justice.
- 2.4 You provide information to LSBC regarding your provision of the Services on the first business day of each month in the approved form and more frequently if requested. We are in the process of developing a form for reporting, which will be accessible on the LSBC website. Once it is operational, you will be provided with the link to the form.
- 2.5 You include the following disclosure on any website, social media and other mediums you use to promote the Services and you provide this disclosure in written form to each client prior to commencing any engagement:

My services to you are not provided by a lawyer regulated by the Law Society of British Columbia. As a result:

(a) I could be required to disclose to third parties your communications with me and any documents you provide in relation to my advice and assistance as such communications will not be subject to solicitor-client privilege;

(b) I am not required to have professional liability insurance, and do not carry professional liability insurance (In the event that you do carry professional liability insurance, the disclosure of this clause is not required);

(c) There is no statutory complaint process in relation to the services that I provide; and

(d) The Law Society of British Columbia has not evaluated or verified my competence, character, and/or fitness to provide the services.

For more information about the Law Society's innovation sandbox visit <https://www.lawsociety.bc.ca/our-initiatives/innovation-sandbox/>.

- 2.6 You are expected to deliver the Services in a manner consistent with our expectations of lawyers under the *Legal Profession Act*, the LSBC Rules and the LSBC *Code of Professional Conduct* to the extent they are applicable.
- 2.7 You consent to the disclosure by the Law Society of your personal information, including your name and the scope of Services which you may provide, this no-action letter, and the modification or rescission of the no-action letter, generally on its website and in response to inquiries from the public or regulatory bodies and for the purpose of informing the public about you and the Services you may provide in conjunction with your participation in the Innovation Sandbox.
- 2.8 If you intend to represent clients before administrative tribunals, you acknowledge that this no-action letter does not grant you audience to appear and that you may require permission from the presiding adjudicator to do so.
- 2.9 You cooperate fully with any investigation into any complaint LSBC receives about the Services and/or your conduct in relation to the provision of the Services and you respond promptly to requests from the LSBC for any information and/or documents in relation to the provision of Services.
- 2.10 You indemnify and save harmless LSBC, its Benchers, officers, agents and employees from all claims, demands, losses, damages, costs, fines, penalties and expenses that LSBC, its Benchers, officers, agents or employees may sustain, incur, suffer, or be put to at any time, either before or after this

Agreement ends, which are based upon, arise out of or occur, directly or indirectly, by reason of any act or omission in your provision of the Services.

- 2.11 You do not assert, imply or otherwise suggest in any way that the no-action letter is an approval, endorsement or certification of the quality of your Services or of your qualifications, competence or fitness to provide the Services.

3. Rescission

The Law Society may rescind this no-action letter at any time on written notice if

- 3.1 You fail to meet any of the conditions set out in Part 2 of this letter.
- 3.2 You provide services beyond the scope of your proposal that constitute the practice of law as defined in the *Legal Profession Act*.
- 3.3 You engage in, or propose to engage in, conduct in relation to the provision of the Services that presents a risk of harm to the public or undermines the integrity of the administration of justice.
- 3.4 Material information that you failed to disclose comes to our attention or misinformation is discovered.

4. Acknowledgement

By acceptance of this letter, you acknowledge that:

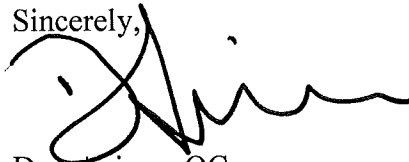
- 4.1 This no-action letter is not an endorsement of the quality of the Services you provide or of your qualifications, competence or fitness to provide the Services.
- 4.2 Nothing in this no-action letter makes you a member of LSBC.
- 4.3 The issuance of this no-action letter is not an agreement on the part of LSBC, its Benchers, officers, agents and employees, to insure or indemnify you or your clients for any claims, demands, losses, damages, costs, fines, penalties and/or expenses that may arise in relation to your Services and you will remain solely responsible.
- 4.4 This no-action letter will take effect from the date of this letter and remain in effect until LSBC provides written notice of modification or rescission or

otherwise determines that other regulatory measures are appropriate in relation to the Services.

- 4.5 If the LSBC determines that some or all of your Services require a licence, you agree to submit an application in that licensing process if you wish to continue providing the Services.

Thank you again for your proposal and we trust that you will be successful in providing the Services to the public.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Don Avison', written over the word 'Sincerely,'.

Don Avison, QC
CEO/Executive Director

Legal Services Innovation Sandbox Proposal

Submission date: 2020-12-10 at 5:35 PM

File No. AP20200016

Name: John Charles Wesley McDonald
Title: Paralegal
Company: McDonald Paralegal Services Ltd.
Address: 7203 25 St SE
Calgary, Alberta Canada
Phone: 4039150611
Email: john@albertacourtagent.ca
Accredited? – Accreditation is not required in the Junior Court in Alberta
Insured? – I am in the process of obtaining E&O insurance.

Please tell us about the legal service you intend to provide.

General Civil Litigation advocacy and advice in Provincial Court (Small Claims), CRT, and other boards and administrative tribunals.
Enforcement of Court Orders in BCSC

How do you expect that your legal service will address the unmet legal needs of BC residents?

There is currently no provision of legal-aid or low cost general litigation services within British Columbia creating a barrier to justice for general litigation candidates in small claims matters, while not creating a legal aid type service we could provide a lower cost solution to lawyers and law firms.

Who do you think will be the consumers of the legal service you intend to provide?

Low income, or lower mid-earners throughout British Columbia, and those seeking to enforce judgments in British Columbia.

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?

I have held a general litigation practice for 3 years supporting clients and lawyers in both British Columbia and Alberta, my current principals being dual calls in both jurisdictions. The firm I currently work at has offices in both Vancouver and Calgary, although I am opening my own business which will be extra-provincially registered in BC, I will retain chambers with the current firm. I would still be supervised generally by those two lawyers. Additionally I will hold errors and omissions insurance on or before January 1, 2021 to create an additional layer of

insulation for prospective clients. I am a graduate of Bow Valley College Legal Assistant Diploma, and the Canadian Armed Forces Military Law Centre Presiding Officers Course, having presided over Military Summary Trials.