

Purpose and Scope of Panel

This panel is comprised of roster lawyers with significant experience and aptitude, or interest in major criminal cases. It covers matters where the client is:

1. facing criminal charges pursuant to section 469 of the *Criminal Code*; or
2. is the subject of a Dangerous Offender or Long-Term Offender Application; or
3. facing charges that LAA has determined that the charge is serious and complex enough to fall within the definition of a “major case”; or
4. the appellant or respondent in a criminal appeal involving charges outlined in (1)-(3) above.

Panel members will receive priority when LAA offers certificates to roster lawyers in this service area. While LAA reserves the right to appoint lawyers who are not on this panel, LAA plans to give panel members first preference when it appoints a lawyer from the roster.

This is a **province-wide** panel, but LAA will consider geographic service locations when assessing panel applications. Lawyers will initially be appointed to this panel for **three years**, subject to any changes to LAA’s business needs. Panel members may reapply before their term expires.

Panel Competencies

Any LAA roster lawyer is eligible to apply to join this panel. Applicants will demonstrate the following competencies:

- Criminal Law Experience in Serious and Complex Cases ie. section 469 of the Criminal Code of Canada, including conducting trials (judge alone and jury trials), pre-trial applications and contested sentencing hearings.
- Demonstrated experience and applied knowledge in working with vulnerable populations including Indigenous clients who make up a significant portion of LAA’s clientele.
- A demonstrated interest in mentoring junior lawyers in serious and complex cases.

Lawyers do not necessarily require direct or extensive experience in all competencies listed above, but where a lawyer lacks directly relevant experience in an area, they should be prepared demonstrate a defined, written, and producible plan for obtaining those competencies while a member of the panel.

Expectations of Panel Members

Number of Files

The number of matters may vary substantially between geographic service areas. LAA cannot estimate of how many certificates it may offer to panel members, because this will depend on how many lawyers LAA selects for the panel and where these lawyers practice law.

Panel members are expected to maintain experience and currency in serious and complex criminal justice matters by taking a reasonable number of serious and complex files during their time on the panel. Lawyers on the panel must also be prepared to accept some files throughout their geographic service areas.

Training and Continuing Legal Education

In addition to taking these files, panel lawyers are expected to seek out continuing legal education opportunities relevant to the competencies listed above. This might include, for example:

- Attending training conferences, seminars, or webinars offered by LAA's staff lawyers or others in serious and complex criminal cases.
- Reading treatises, textbooks, or caselaw relevant to serious and complex criminal justice law
- Undertaking cultural competency training or other training that helps the lawyer gain a greater understanding of the challenges facing LAA's clientele.

LAA may also direct panel members to undertake specific professional development activities. Lawyers who intend to reapply to the panel should be prepared to explain what continuing legal education they have undertaken in relation to the panel competences.

Panel Selection Process

Lawyers who are interested in joining this panel must submit the application form and CV to LAA before the deadline noted on the LAA website. Lawyers will be selected for the panel in accordance with the process set out in LAA's Administrative Policy 6.

The panel selection committee will not interview applicants, but an LAA staff member may contact references listed on the application form to discuss the applicant's interest, aptitude, or experience. By applying to the panel, roster lawyers authorize LAA to make confidential inquiries into the lawyer's qualifications and competencies.