

BIG SAVINGS WITH FREE SERVICE

The Court of Queen’s Bench offers a free service to families going through separation and divorce. It is called the Dispute Resolution Officer Project. The parties can attend by consent (or sometimes, are required to attend by the Court), a DRO hearing early on in the process to try to resolve their issues.

Lonny Balbi has been volunteering as a Dispute Resolution Officer since the program’s inception. He recently worked with a couple who attended a hearing by Court Order to deal with the issues of custody, access, child support, retroactive child support and property division. The parties were easily looking at spending over \$100,000 each in legal and Court costs to have the matter tried through the Court system.

Lonny was able to work with the parties and their lawyers in a DRO session in order to come up with a resolution to all of their issues. The DRO service was free; the parties saved thousands of dollars.

Early dispute resolution is an excellent way to try to get to the heart of the problem before matters get out of hand.

SWIFT ACTION SAVES CLIENTS MONEY, PRODUCES NON-ADVERSARIAL OUTCOME

This past summer, Crystal Thompson was retained on two separate files by former clients whose spouses had refused to pay for any of the cost of their children’s attendance at post-secondary schooling, despite clear legal obligations to do so.

After a careful assessment of the facts in both respective situations, Crystal determined that swift action could produce a non-adversarial outcome through alternative dispute resolution, avoiding potentially bitter and costly court proceedings, while ensuring a positive resolution for the children involved. She decided to take the matter to a DRO at the Court of Queen’s Bench of Alberta.

Crystal managed to achieve an early settlement on both files for a minimal cost to the clients. In the end, the children received appropriate funding

for their post-secondary education, all without bitter fighting.



Husband/Wife Discussion:

W: What would you do if I died? Would you get married again?
 H: Definitely not!
 W: Why not – don’t you like being married?
 H: Of course I do.
 W: Then why wouldn’t you remarry?
 H: Okay, I’d get married again.
 W: You would? (with hurtful look on her face)
 H: (audible groan)
 W: Would you sleep with her in our bed?
 H: Where else would we sleep?
 W: Would you replace my pictures with hers?
 H: That would seem like the proper thing to do.
 W: Would she use my golf clubs?
 H: No, she’s left-handed.
 W: (silence)
 H: Damn.



“We were made for each other. I needed new luggage and he came with a lot of baggage.”

**BALBI L.A.W. (LEGAL
ADVISORY WORKSHOP)
SEMINARS**

Recent Balbi L.A.W. (Legal Advisory Workshop) Seminars include the following:

“Not Just for the Rich & Famous.” A discussion about pre-marriage/cohabitation agreements. Hosted by Ceri Chwieros with guest speaker Norm Picard, QC.

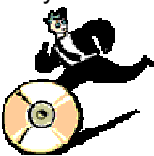
“Can I Move With The Kids?” A discussion of mobility in Family Law. Hosted by Tera Yates with guest speaker Professor Rollie Thompson.

“Put A Ring On It?” A discussion of living common law vs. marriage. Hosted by Ceri Chwieros with guest speaker Aaron Franks.

“Til Death Do You Part.” A presentation of the new *Wills & Succession Act*. Hosted by Kelly Wright with guest speaker Sherri Lynn Kelly.

“Innovative Ways to Solve Your Divorce.” Hosted by Lonny Balbi, QC, with special guest Dinyar Marzban, QC.

If you missed any of our recent seminars, we have posted these archived recordings on our web site at www.familylaw-balbi.com.



Go to the **Balbi L.A.W. Seminars** page to listen to any of the saved seminars.

Information about the Seminars, including dates, topics and call-in numbers, is sent to you via email. If we don't have your email address and you'd like to be added to our distribution list, please forward your email address to balbico@familylaw-balbi.com, or call 403.269.7300.

EXTERNAL RESOURCES

Court of Queen's Bench of Alberta, Provincial Court of Alberta, 601-5th St. SW, Calgary, AB T2P 5P7.

General Info for Court of Queen's Bench: 403.297.5653

General Info for Provincial Court: 403.297.3471

Family Law Information Centre, Family Justice Services, 7th Floor, 601-5th St. SW, Calgary
General Info: 403.297.6981
Information can also be accessed through the internet under Court of Queen's Bench Calgary.

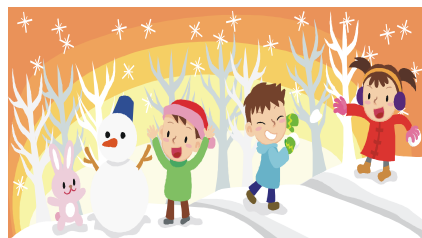
Calgary Legal Guidance, 100, 840-7th Ave. SW. 403.234.9266

Lawyer Referral Service
403.228.1722 or toll free 1-800-661-1095

Parenting After Separation Seminar Info: 403.440.7743

Mustard Seed (shelter & food)
102 - 11th Ave. SE. 403.269.1319

Inter Faith Food Bank
403.253.2055



ENJOY THE SEASON!



CAST & CREW



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