

## OFFICES PROFILES – LEGAL SERVICES DIVISION

### CONSTITUTIONAL LAW BRANCH

<b>Contacts:</b> Daniel Guttman, Counsel Constitutional Law Branch Ministry of the Attorney General 720 Bay Street, 4th Floor Toronto, ON M5G 2K1	Direct Tel: 416-326-4466 General No: 416-326-4460 Fax: 416-326-4015 E-mail: <a href="mailto:daniel.guttman@jus.gov.on.ca">daniel.guttman@jus.gov.on.ca</a>  Additional Contact Vanessa Yolles, Counsel Constitutional Law Branch 416 212-4111 or <a href="mailto:vanessa.yolles@jus.gov.on.ca">vanessa.yolles@jus.gov.on.ca</a>
<b>Positions available: 3</b>	<b>Website:</b> <a href="http://www.attorneygeneral.jus.gov.on.ca">www.attorneygeneral.jus.gov.on.ca</a>
<b>Application Deadline: July 14, 2006 with interviews beginning August 14, 2006.</b>	
<b>Additional Application Requirements:</b> No additional requirements.	
If you would like to speak to a current Articling Student about their experience please contact: (416) 326-4460	

#### BRIEF OVERVIEW

Branch lawyers appear on behalf of the government primarily in non-criminal constitutional cases. Cases involve challenges under the *Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms* and the *Constitution Act, 1867*. Examples of the cases in which counsel for the branch have recently appeared and made submissions include: *M. v. H.* (definition of “spouse” in the *Family Law Act*); *Eldridge v. British Columbia* (entitlement to sign language interpreters for access to health services); *Lovelace v. Ontario* (distribution of Casino Rama profits to First Nations Bands); *Re Eurig Estate* (validity of Ontario’s probate fees); and *Vriend v. Alberta* (sexual orientation and the *Alberta Human Rights Code*).

Our branch advises the government on issues of constitutional policy and reform. These encompass the process of constitutional amendment, alternative arrangements for national unity, and include matters involving aboriginal rights and related constitutional initiatives such as the Framework Agreement on the Social Union, and the Meech Lake and Charlottetown Accords.

Our branch also prepares written opinions for various ministries and agencies of the Government of Ontario. These opinions review both existing and proposed legislation to ensure compliance with both the *Constitution Act, 1867* and the *Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms*.

Students assist lawyers in all facets of their legal work, including research, writing memoranda, and drafting facta and other documents. Students also attend and assist during court and tribunal hearings.