

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**YOUTH CRIMINAL DEFENCE OFFICE WELCOMES NEW SENIOR COUNSEL**

EDMONTON, AB – March 11, 2008 – The Legal Aid Alberta (LAA) Board of Directors is proud to announce that it has retained Greg Francis as the new Senior Counsel of Legal Aid Alberta's Youth Criminal Defence Office (YCDO), effective April 28, 2008.

After conducting an extensive search, LAA's Board of Directors believes it has chosen an exceptional leader who will represent the best interest of YCDO clients, and work towards LAA's efforts to provide a continuum of innovative and cost effective legal services for clients throughout Alberta.

Mr. Francis returns to Legal Aid Alberta, where he was previously a staff lawyer for youth clients, with many years of legal experience. He is currently an equity ombudsperson with the Law Society of Alberta. His commitment to assisting Albertans in need has been demonstrated through his extensive youth client relations work and his previous time with YCDO. "Greg's return to the youth office is exciting. His expertise in the field of youth criminal matters will allow YCDO to continue providing outstanding service to our youth clients," says Charles Seto, YCDO Assistant Senior counsel.

The LAA Board of Directors is confident that under Mr. Francis's leadership, the Youth Criminal Defence Office will continue to provide high quality legal services and support. "The appointment of Mr. Francis equates to another youth law expert residing in the YCDO. This new addition will not only maintain the strength of the program's ability to service youth criminal clients, but also propel YCDO toward future excellence," says Jacqueline Schaffter, LAA President and CEO.

For more information on Legal Aid Alberta or The Youth Criminal Defence Office, please visit either [www.legalaid.ab.ca](http://www.legalaid.ab.ca) or [www.ycdo.ca](http://www.ycdo.ca).

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**About The Youth Criminal Defence Office**

As a program of Legal Aid Alberta, the Youth Criminal Defence Office (YCDO) provides legal services on behalf of youths charged with criminal offences. There are 2 Youth Criminal Defence Office locations in Alberta; one each in Edmonton (600, 10310 Jasper Avenue) and Calgary (600, 444 5<sup>th</sup> Avenue SW). For more information about the services offered by the Youth Criminal Defence Office please visit: [www.ycdo.ca](http://www.ycdo.ca).

**About Legal Aid Alberta**

Legal Aid Alberta (LAA) works to provide a continuum of innovative and cost effective legal services for people in need throughout Alberta. LAA was officially established on July 1, 1970 by an agreement between the Law Society of Alberta and the provincial Attorney General. For more information about Legal Aid Alberta and its many services please visit [www.legalaid.ab.ca](http://www.legalaid.ab.ca)