

## Major Cases Roster Panel Competencies

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Any LAA roster lawyer is eligible to apply to join this panel. Applicants will demonstrate the following competencies or will have a defined, written, and producible plan to develop these competencies.

1. **Criminal Law experience in serious and complex cases (i.e. section 469 of the *Criminal Code of Canada*), including conducting trials (judge alone and jury trials), pre-trial applications and contested sentencing hearings.** Significant practice in criminal law is a requirement. Lawyers should demonstrate their competency by:
  - (a) Providing a summary of s. 469 offences or serious and complex cases that you have conducted over the past five years. Ensure to outline how many serious and complex matters you have conducted, who assisted you on those matters, if applicable, the charges, when they were conducted and a summary of the legal issues involved, for example, expert witnesses, pre-trial motions, etc.
  - (b) Providing judicial decisions and/or transcripts from cases you have conducted.
  - (c) By listing any training seminars, courses you have taught, or other continuing legal education you have undertaken in relation to criminal defence.
2. **Demonstrated experience and applied knowledge in working with vulnerable populations including Indigenous clients who make up a significant portion of LAA's clientele.** This includes, for example, interest or experience working with Indigenous and marginalized communities and clients who are experiencing homelessness, poverty, addiction, or family breakdown. Lawyers should demonstrate their competency by:
  - (a) Explaining how their previous professional, personal, educational, or volunteer experience reflects their interest or experience in this area.
  - (b) Providing a summary of the cases you have conducted that involved working with vulnerable and disadvantaged clientele who require a high level of client management skills.
3. **Demonstrated interest in mentoring junior lawyers in serious and complex cases.**

- 4. Commitment to training and continuing legal education in legal issues associated with serious and complex criminal matters.** Major Cases Panel lawyers are expected to seek continuing legal education opportunities relevant to the competencies listed above and complete **at least eight hours** per year of professional continuing education in the area of criminal law.

**Lawyers do not necessarily require direct or extensive experience in the areas listed above**, but if a lawyer lacks directly relevant experience in an area, the lawyer must have a detailed, written and producible plan for gaining those competencies while a member of the panel. For example, LAA encourages applications from criminal lawyers who have significant experience in serious and complex criminal proceedings however, we will consider lawyers who have a plan to gain more experience through mentorship with senior counsel or conducting serious and complex files with the assistance of a panel member.