

SWADRON ASSOCIATES

October 28, 2009

BY FACSIMILE

Frank Addario
President
Criminal Lawyers' Association
296 Jarvis Street, Unit 7
Toronto, Ontario M5B 2C5

Dear Mr. Addario:

Legal Aid Ontario Funding

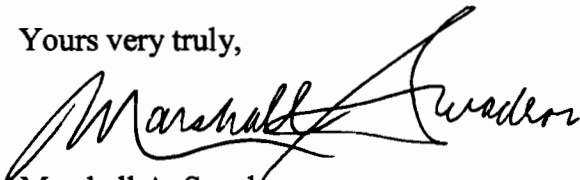
I am writing on behalf of the Mental Health Legal Committee, a volunteer organization of lawyers and community legal workers practising mental health law in Ontario. Formed in 1997, we have approximately 60 members across the Province. Our organization works to promote and protect the rights of psychiatric consumer/survivors in a variety of ways, including advocacy work in public policy matters, undertaking strategic appellate litigation and public legal education projects.

Our members regularly represent vulnerable clients before the Ontario Review Board and the Consent and Capacity Board and appeals from these boards. We are also active on behalf of psychiatric consumer/survivors at inquests and in other administrative, civil, criminal, and constitutional contexts. The vast majority of our clients depend on legal aid for access to justice.

We support the Criminal Lawyers' Association in its efforts to bring attention to the dysfunction that grips our legal aid system and wish you success in your quest for progressive changes to the level of legal aid funding and equal access to the criminal justice process.

Kindly add the Mental Health Legal Committee to the lawyers and organizations listed on your website as supporting the present action of the Criminal Lawyers' Association in boycotting serious criminal and guns and gangs prosecutions where the defence is funded by Legal Aid.

Yours very truly,



Marshall A. Swadron
Chair
Mental Health Legal Committee

MAS:fs

c.c.: Anthony Laycock
John McCamus
Robert Ward