

## **LAWYERS**

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Lawyers advise clients on legal matters, plead cases or conduct prosecutions in courts of law. They represent clients before tribunals and administrative boards, and draw up legal documents such as contracts and wills. Law firms, prosecutor's offices, governments and businesses employ them. Lawyers may be self-employed.

Law is a regulated profession.

To practise law in Manitoba you must:

- have a bachelor of laws or juris doctor degree from a Canadian common law university OR a certificate of qualification from the National Committee on Accreditation
- prove that you are of good moral character and a fit and proper person to be admitted to the profession of law in Manitoba
- be licensed by the Law Society of Manitoba

### **You must complete the following steps:**

**STEP 1:** Contact the Law Society of Manitoba to request an articling application and Canadian Centre for Professional Legal Education admission package.

Law Society of Manitoba  
Karen Dyck, Director of admissions and membership  
219 Kennedy Street  
Winnipeg, Manitoba R3C 1S8  
Phone: 204-942-5571  
Fax: 204-956-0624  
E-mail: [kdyck@lawsociety.mb.ca](mailto:kdyck@lawsociety.mb.ca)  
Website: [www.lawsociety.mb.ca](http://www.lawsociety.mb.ca)

**STEP 2:** Contact the National Committee on Accreditation and tell them you are an internationally educated lawyer seeking to practise in Manitoba.

National Committee on Accreditation  
Deborah Wolfe, Managing director  
World Exchange Plaza  
1810 - 45, rue o'Connor Street  
Ottawa, Ontario K1P 1A4  
Phone: 613-236-7250  
Fax: 613-236-7233  
E-mail: [dwolfe@flsc.ca](mailto:dwolfe@flsc.ca)  
Website: [www.flsc.ca](http://www.flsc.ca)

**STEP 3:** Complete the National Committee on Accreditation application form to obtain a certificate of equivalency.

You must submit the following:

- original transcripts of pre-law grades if any or if not available, a certificate of standing\*
- original final transcripts of law grades\*
- course descriptions in field of legal study including number of hours of each course, number of class hours each week and total number of weeks per year
- a certificate of call or admission if previously called to the bar along with a letter or certificate of good standing
- a transcript of marks if bar admission was based on written exams
- details of work experience
- statement regarding citizenship or immigration status
- evidence of language proficiency in English (TOEFL: Test of English as a Foreign Language or equivalent testing score) (if required)
- Law School Admission Test score (if required)
- proof of name change document (if required)
- application fee (\$525)

\* If documents are not in English or French, notarized translation is required.

**STEP 4:** Complete exams as required by the National Committee on Accreditation.

**STEP 5:** Complete the Law Society of Manitoba application form to apply as an articling student. Secure an articling position with a member of the society who has been a barrister and a solicitor for at least three years and who is approved by the society.

You must submit the following:

- certificate of qualification
- original transcripts of all university marks
- character reference
- certified fingerprint-based national criminal record check
- tuition fees (\$1400 + GST for 2009/10)
- education plan signed by applicant and approved principal\*
- articling agreement between applicant and approved principal\*

\* Must be submitted within 14 days of commencing articles with an approved principal.

**STEP 6:** Complete the Canadian Centre for Professional Legal Education licensing program.

**STEP 7:** When all requirements have been met, you have been called to the bar and you have paid practising and insurance fees, you will be licensed by the Law Society of Manitoba to practise law in Manitoba.

### **Other information**

Annual practising fee is \$1522.50.


Annual mandatory professional liability insurance premium is \$525.

The fee for each National Committee on Accreditation exam is \$525.

Tuition fee for the 2009/10 Canadian Centre for Professional Legal Education licensing program is \$1470.

*Revised October 2009*

#### **Useful website:**

 [immigratemanitoba.com](http://immigratemanitoba.com): employment support for New Manitobans, programs to help you get licensed, learn English for work, and more information and resources