

**Provincial Court of Alberta  
Central Region (only)**

**NOTICE TO THE PROFESSION  
2008.1**

**Court Sitting Schedule**

The Court provides regular updates of its Sitting Schedule to the Crown Prosecutors' Offices to ensure that a Crown Prosecutor is assigned to every open criminal courtroom. For some time now, that schedule has also included information as to judicial assignments. It is perceived by some members of the Central Alberta Defence Bar that the practice of providing the judicial assignment information to the Crown Prosecutors' Office, and not to the Defence Bar, has the potential of providing the Crown with an unfair advantage. A change in the Court's current practice will put both the Crown and the Defence on even footing and eliminate this perception. By way of history, the practice of including the judicial assignments on the schedule originated, at least in part, because of the large number of conflicts that arose due to local judges having familial ties with the Defence Bar. Those conflicts have decreased substantially, and can now be adequately addressed with disqualification notices issued by the Clerk's Office.

As such, effective immediately, judicial assignment information will no longer be included on any future updates to the Court's Sitting Schedule provided to Crown Prosecutors' Offices.

DATED this 7<sup>th</sup> day of April, 2008

Directed by:  
The Honourable M.R. Bast  
Assistant Chief Judge  
Provincial Court of Alberta