

We find that quite often there is confusion about the services that we, the **BC Human Rights Clinic** provides and the services that the **BC Human Rights Tribunal** provides. This is understandable.

Below we have tried to explain some of the differences and who does what.

The BC Human Rights Tribunal	The BC Human Rights Clinic
They are the “Court” which makes decisions on human rights complaints.	We provide Legal Assistance (think of us as legal aid for Human Rights cases). We also provide Education services about Human Rights.
Their Inquiry Officers can send you forms and tell you about the Tribunal process.	Our Information Officer can explain (in general terms) how the law works, assist in helping determine if you might have a complaint, suggest who might be the best organization to help resolve your complaint.
They provide the Forms that need to be completed to file a complaint, respond to a complaint, withdraw a complaint, etc...	We provide a Drop-in Clinic on Mondays at their location where we help draft complaints, answer questions and help with paperwork.
You file your complaint with them.	Once your complaint is accepted (2-6 weeks after filing) you can send your complaint to our “Intake Committee” to see if we can help you.
Their Case Managers screen complaints to make sure it is something the Tribunal has legal authority to deal with, and if so it is accepted for filing.	Our Intake Committee looks to see if we will/can represent the Complainant(s). If help is denied the Complainant has 14 days to appeal to the Appeals Committee.
Case Managers manage the complaint for the Tribunal, setting dates, sending letters - generally administering the paperwork of the file.	The Legal Assistants to the Advocates are generally the first people Complainants speak with once they have been accepted for representation. Assistants set up the files, set dates, send letters, and attend pre-hearing conference calls for Complainants.
The Tribunal does not provide lawyers for either side but Respondent(s) (defendants) can hire Respondent Counsel (Lawyer). The Tribunal cannot give legal advice.	Advocates are the ones responsible for providing legal assistance to Complainants. Most of the Advocates are Lawyers, but they are acting as advocates only.
A Tribunal Member – is like a “Judge” at the Tribunal who makes decisions on cases. A Member may also act as a Mediator at a Tribunal settlement meeting.	Advocates attend with Complainants at settlement meetings and argue (via submissions) the case of the Complainant in preliminary applications. A file may be transferred to a Lawyer if a hearing is necessary. The Lawyer will argue the case for the complainant in front of the Tribunal
<p style="text-align: center;">BC Human Rights Tribunal #1170 - 605 Robson Street Vancouver, B.C. V6B 5J3 Ph.: (604) 775. 2000 Fax: (604) 775. 2020 (604) 775. 2021 (TTY) Toll Free (in BC): 1 888 440 8844 Web: www.bchrt.bc.ca</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">BC Human Rights Clinic #300 – 1140 West Pender Street, Vancouver, B.C. V6E 4G1 Ph: (604) 622.1100 Fax: (604) 685.7611 Toll Free: 1 855 685 6222 Email: InfoBCHRC@clasbc.net Web: www.bchrc.net</p>