



LIC

Legal Information Clinic

CSU
LEGAL INFORMATION
CLINIC

“BUILDING A COMMUNITY OF INFORMED AND EMPOWERED CONCORDIA STUDENTS”

[HTTPS://WWW.CSU.QC.CA/SERVICES/LIC](https://www.csu.qc.ca/services/lic)



Our Mandate

The CSU Legal Information Clinic is a free service that provides legal information, referrals to lawyers, and accompaniment in both French and English to undergraduate and since Fall 2021, graduate students at Concordia University. The LIC offers information related to issues on immigration, discrimination, small claims, human rights, contracts, and any other areas of law.

The LIC's mandate of access to justice also includes community outreach or collaborative projects with community organizations or other CSU departments such as CSU's Advocacy Centre and CSU's Housing and Job's Office (HOJO).

Our Unique Approach

- At the LIC, our goal is to not just provide you with legal information but instead, to empower you to make legal decisions that you feel confident about. Our staff is continuously trained in different fields of law but also in mental health care.
- With the assistance of supervising lawyers and law student volunteers, we initially meet and help clients organize their documents and the facts pertaining to their situation, to understand their needs and issues.
- The LIC carefully explains and educates students through legal information, research and examples on all their possible options so that they can come to a fully informed decision themselves on which choices are best for them, especially since they are the ones who will assume the consequences of their decisions.



Our Unique Approach

- The clinic spends at least 2-8 hours for simpler cases and many more hours for complex cases, applying a survivor-centred, trauma informed approach, especially for those cases involving sexual violence, discrimination and trauma.
- The clinic is an integral part of the ecosystem of CSU services for students, Concordia and the community at large along with our in-depth grassroots knowledge and collaboration with the resources available to students at the CSU, Concordia University and Concordia Community.

- *The LIC frequently collaborates with:* HOJO, CSU Advocacy, International Student Office (ISO), Sexual Assault Resource Centre (SARC), Counselling and Psychological Services, Centre for Gender Advocacy, Access Centre for Students with Disabilities (ACSD), Multi-Faith and Spirituality Centre, Centre for Research Action and Race Relations (CRARR), Solidarity Across Borders, and more!

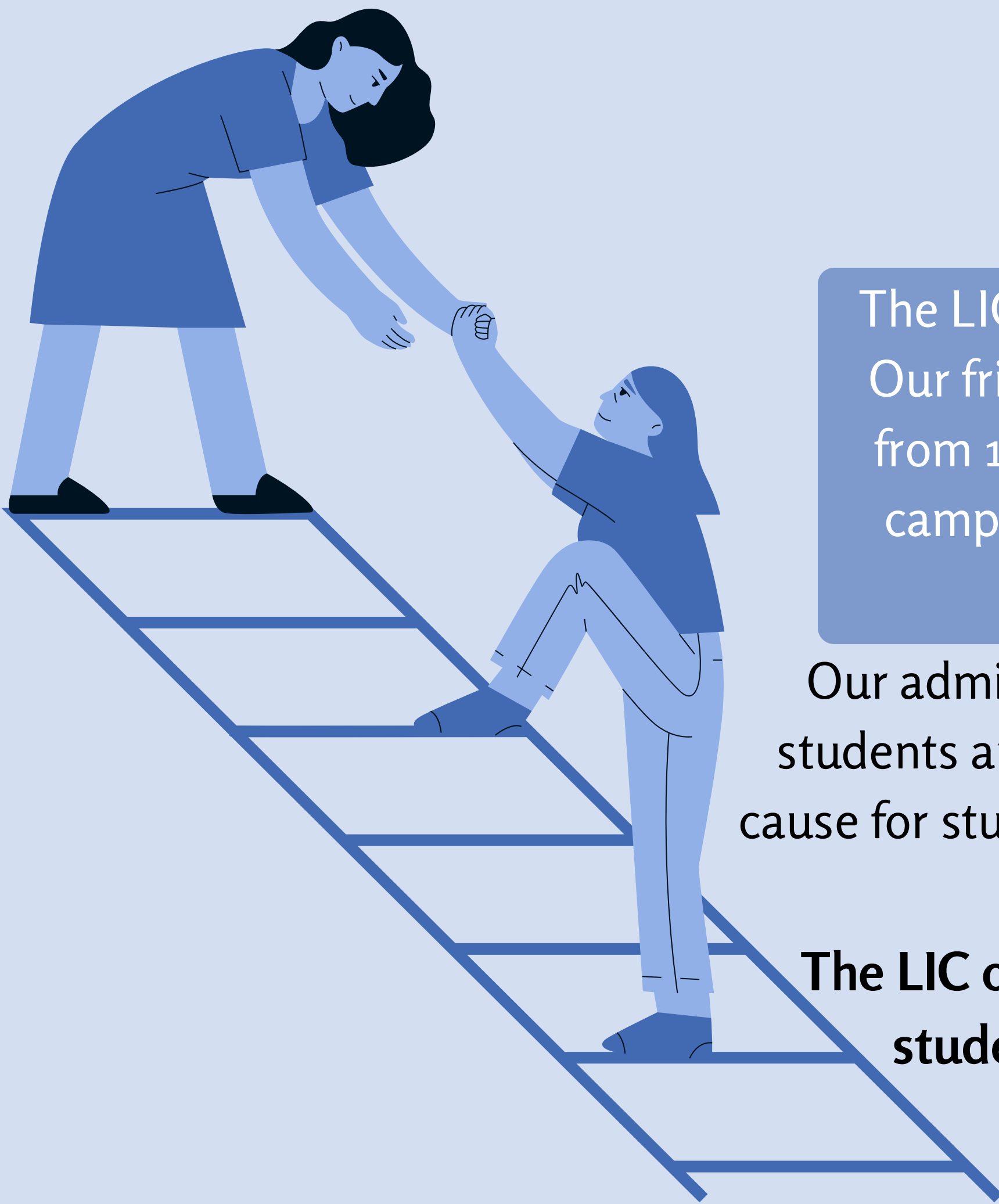
Our Team

Admin Staff

The LIC is located on the 7th floor of the Hall building (H-729). Our friendly admin staff are available in office Monday-Friday from 12-5pm. The LIC prides itself in having staff available on campus so that student's can have a personable experience and immediate assistance for any situation!

Our admin's Nicole, Lena, and Isabella are all current Concordia students and understand the added stress that legal situations can cause for students. They are there to listen and assist you every step of the way.

The LIC offers both in-person and online appointments, allowing students to choose which option is best suited for them.



Our Team

LIC Manager

Walter Chi-Yan Tom

Walter has been at the LIC since it opened in 2007. With 33 years working as a lawyer, his expertise and knowledge of the law provide our student clientele with invaluable information and support. Walter has dedicated many years of support as an active member in both the Concordia community and the Montreal community as a whole.

LIC Assistant Manager

Jamieson Sparling

As a recent graduate of Concordia, Jamieson understands the demands of school and how legal situations can cause major disruptions to a student's wellbeing. Certified in Mental Health First Aid, Jamieson provides the LIC and its student clientele with endless mental health support and resources. Jamieson also dedicated 4 years of her studies to student life as a member of the Concordia Law and Society Student Association.

Our Team

LIC Supervising Lawyer

Kayle Sykes

Kayle supervises the volunteer law students and meets with our student clientele Monday-Thursday. In her own law practice, Kayle assists clients with temporary and permanent immigration, asylum claims, and joint applications for divorce. This knowledge assists our volunteer law students in providing accurate and in-depth legal information to provide to our student clientele. Kayle is also an active member of the Montreal community, dedicating 8 years of pro-bono support to Pinay, the Filipino Women's Organization.

LIC Supervising Lawyer

Hannah Deegan

Hannah supervises the volunteer law students and meets with our student clientele every Friday. In her own practice, Hannah works with DTMF-RHFW to promote and defend the fundamental rights of household and farm workers in Quebec and Canada, in particular those with precarious immigration status. Hannah's advocacy work empowers not only our staff but our student-clientele. Hannah is an active member of the Montreal community, dedicating 4 years to Pinay as well. This organization empowers migrant and immigrant women to assert their rights and fight for their basic rights and welfare.

Our Team

Volunteer Law Students

Volunteer law students are available 20 hours per week!
They provide you with information on the law, procedures and recourses.
They can explain to you governmental forms and how to write a letter of demand (to request action from another person or company to address a problem).
They can refer you to another organization or law firm if this is the type of service you need.



Legal Network Legal Fee Fund & Legal Representation



- Although the LIC and its law student volunteers cannot act as lawyers for the clients, the clinic does provide legal representation and advice to students through our Legal Network list where we refer them to qualified and experienced lawyers and advocates who are community-minded and engaged.
- The LIC had an annual budget line of approximately \$18,000 for Legal Fee Funding which the clinic provides to students who, in addition to our legal information services, truly need a lawyer for legal representation and advice, especially if they do not qualify for government legal aid which is a program that pays for their lawyer's legal fees and costs.

Legal Fee Funding Cases

Of the cases who benefited from the LIC Legal Fee Fund from May 2023 - April 2024, legal representation and fees were provided for 8 clients on the following subject matters:

1. Resolving precarious temporary immigration status and obtaining permanent residency for an Asian survivor of conjugal violence.
2. Same-sex sexual harassment at work.
3. Review of Concordia policies on sexual violence following a lawsuit by a survivor of sexual violence on campus.
4. Civil lawsuit against the City of Montreal for police brutality and racism towards a Black student despite Quebec Human Rights Commission's refusal to proceed.



Legal Fee Funding Cases

Continued...



5. Lawsuit against Concordia and the City of Montreal police for gross negligence of a survivor of sexual violence on campus.
6. Resolving precarious temporary immigration status and obtaining permanent residency following the refusal of a Post-Grad Work Permit due to a study break during the Covid-19 pandemic.
7. Defense of a Black student criminally charged and assaulted by a racist Concordia security guard during a sports activity on campus.
8. Assisting a Palestinian refugee with Immigration Canada's overly restrictive Special Measures for Gaza program, reuniting him with his wife who was at risk in Gaza and succeeded in joining him in Montreal.

Legal Fee Funding Cases

All of these complex cases involved clients who were traumatized and at risk, and whom the LIC has continuously supported, in addition to providing them with legal representation.



Appointments, Research and Case Management

Due to the complexity of cases, many students require more than one appointment to deal with their issue. From May 2023 to April 2024, the LIC handled a total of 227 appointments, lasting on average 1 hour each.

For each case, apart from the time spent on a case during appointments, at least an additional 2-4 hours is spent by the volunteer law students and supervising lawyers on legal information research, case management and communications with the students.



Fields of Law

Immigration

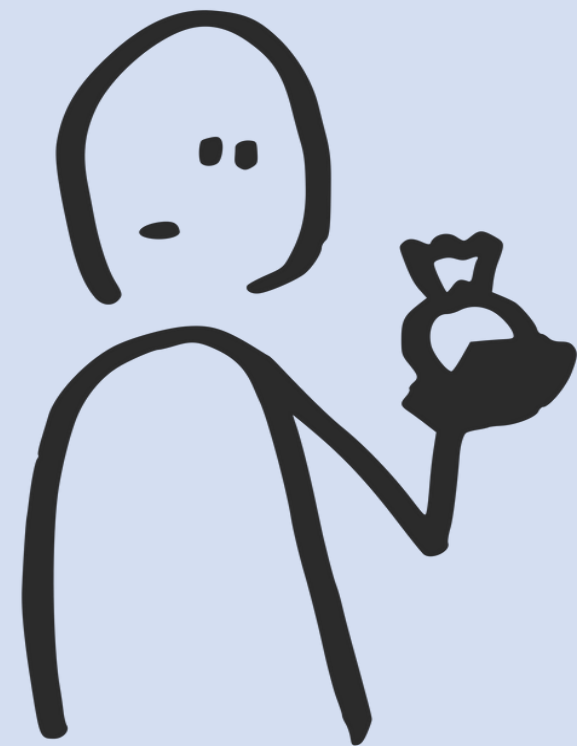
- Permanent Resident Applications
- Family Sponsorships
- Visitor Visas
- Study Permits
- CAQ Renewals
- Post-Graduate Work Permits
- & more!



Fields of Law

Discrimination

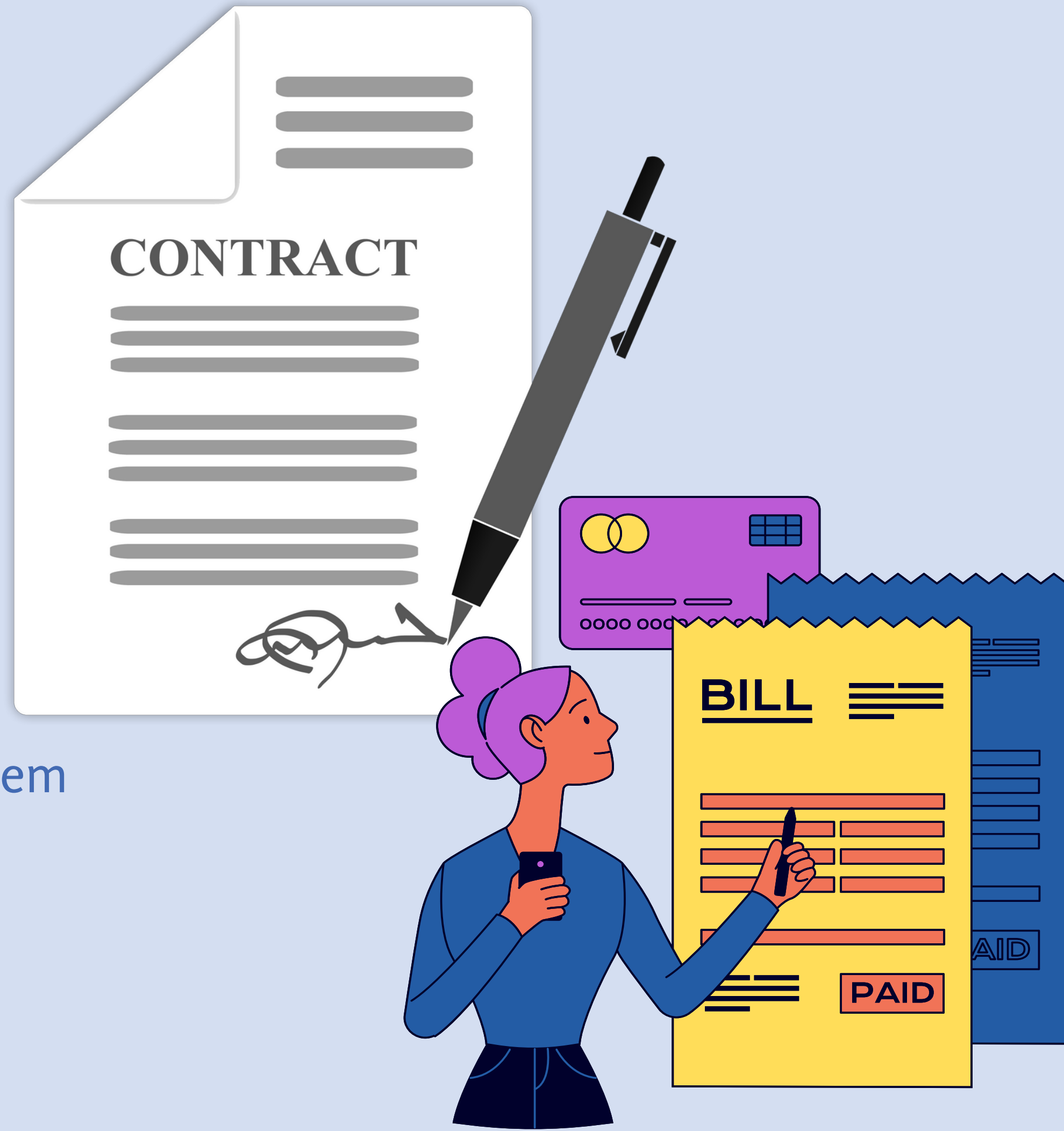
- Based on different factors such as:
- Race
- Religion
- Ethnicity
- Disability
- Sexuality
- Diverse settings (such as employment and housing)



Fields of Law

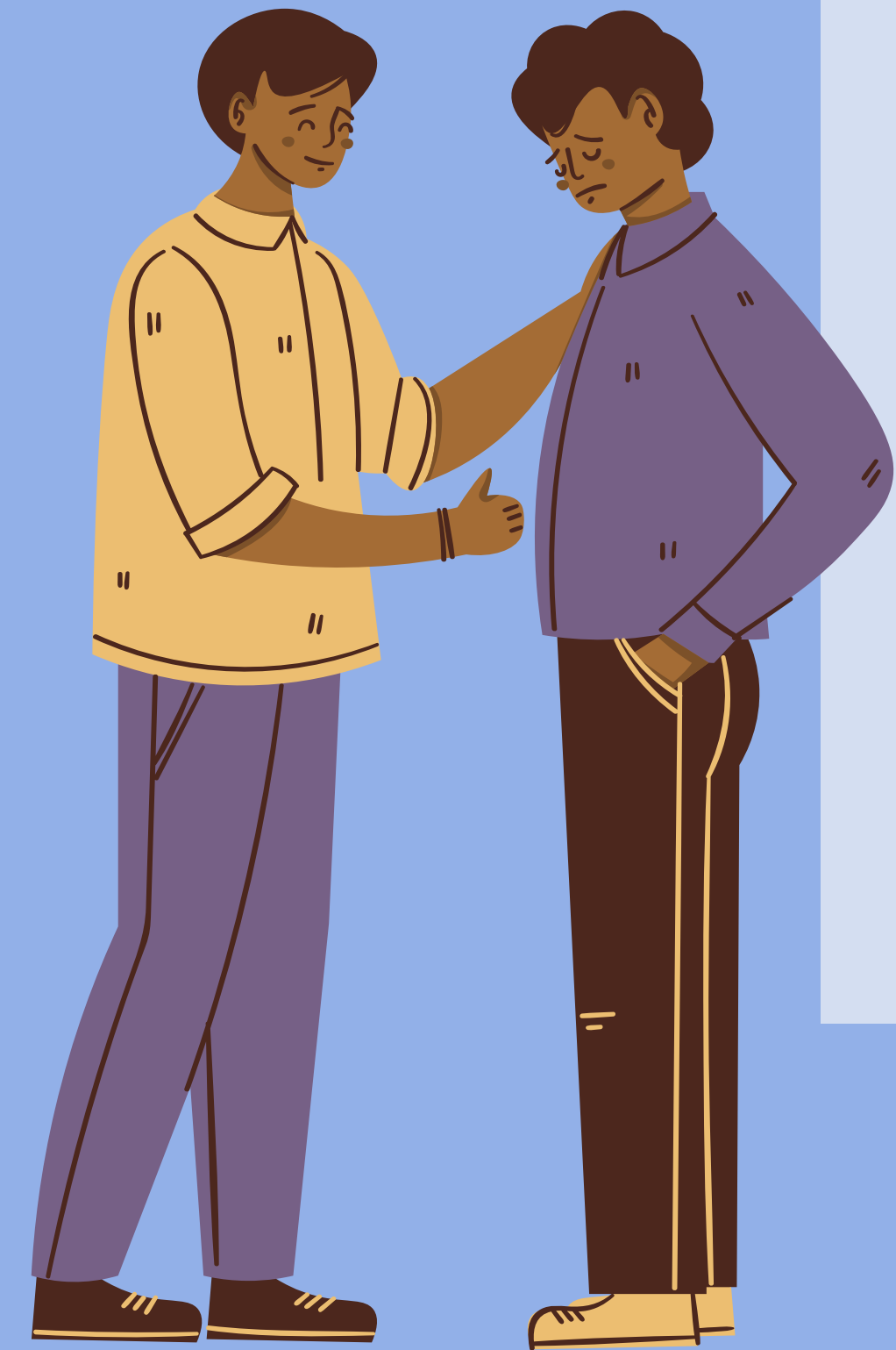
Consumer Protection

- Cell phone contracts
- Travel agencies
- Defective products
- Problems with a particular service or item



Accompaniment Service

If you are feeling nervous or uncomfortable going to a court hearing or to report something to the police alone, someone from our staff can come with you for moral support. While this is a limited service, we will do everything in our power to try and answer your questions in a timely manner while staying within our legally imposed limitations.





LIC

Legal Information Clinic

Contact Us

Contact Information:

We encourage you to reach out to us for any legal information inquiries or support.



Address:

Hall Building, H-729



Phone:

(514) 848-7474 ext 7375



Email:

legalclinic@csu.qc.ca



Website:

www.csu.qc.ca/services/lic

