

Legal Matters



Personal injury law and the importance of specialization

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Personal Injury Alliance

Q When someone is seriously injured, why is it important to hire a lawyer who specializes in personal injury law?

A Catastrophic injury cases are complex and, therefore, require a lawyer who is equipped to deal with all the different components — the medical issues concerning the specific injury, the prediction of future needs and calculation of economic losses, and the interactions between insurance systems, no-fault, civil tort, and private disability, to name a few. The lawyer must also know how to put these pieces together to achieve the best outcome in terms of rehabilitation, care and compensation.

Q What are the risks of hiring a lawyer without a personal injury specialty?

A If the lawyer doesn't have the experience to fully understand and assess the injury and doesn't know how to access the necessary resources, both medical and financial, an injured person could miss out on much needed rehabilitation and could receive less than fair compensation.

Q How do you ensure you are hiring the right lawyer?

A Experience matters. Look behind the advertising and check the credentials of both the lawyer and his or her firm. A lawyer should be certified by the Law Society, recognized by their peers in legitimate reviews — L'expert and Best Lawyers in Canada — and have years of experience practising personal injury law. The law firm, like all of the firms in the Personal Injury Alliance, should have a solid track record of handling complex cases. For more information, go to pialaw.ca/credentials.

If you've suffered a catastrophic injury

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Taxman

CRA sets up self-snitch line

The taxman wants to know if any of his own are up to no good. That's why the Canada Revenue Agency is in the process of setting up a self-snitch line. The so-called internal fraud and misuse reporting lines would give agency staff a way to confidentially report any concerns about their colleagues. **THE CANADIAN PRESS**

Fight with ISIS

Not a combat mission: Harper

Prime Minister Stephen Harper says 69 special forces soldiers have been sent to northern Iraq to advise and assist local forces in the fight against the militants known as the Islamic State of Iraq and al-Sham (ISIS). Both the New Democrats and Liberals want Parliament to vote on the deployment, but Harper says that won't happen because it's not a combat mission. **THE CANADIAN PRESS**

Magnotta trial

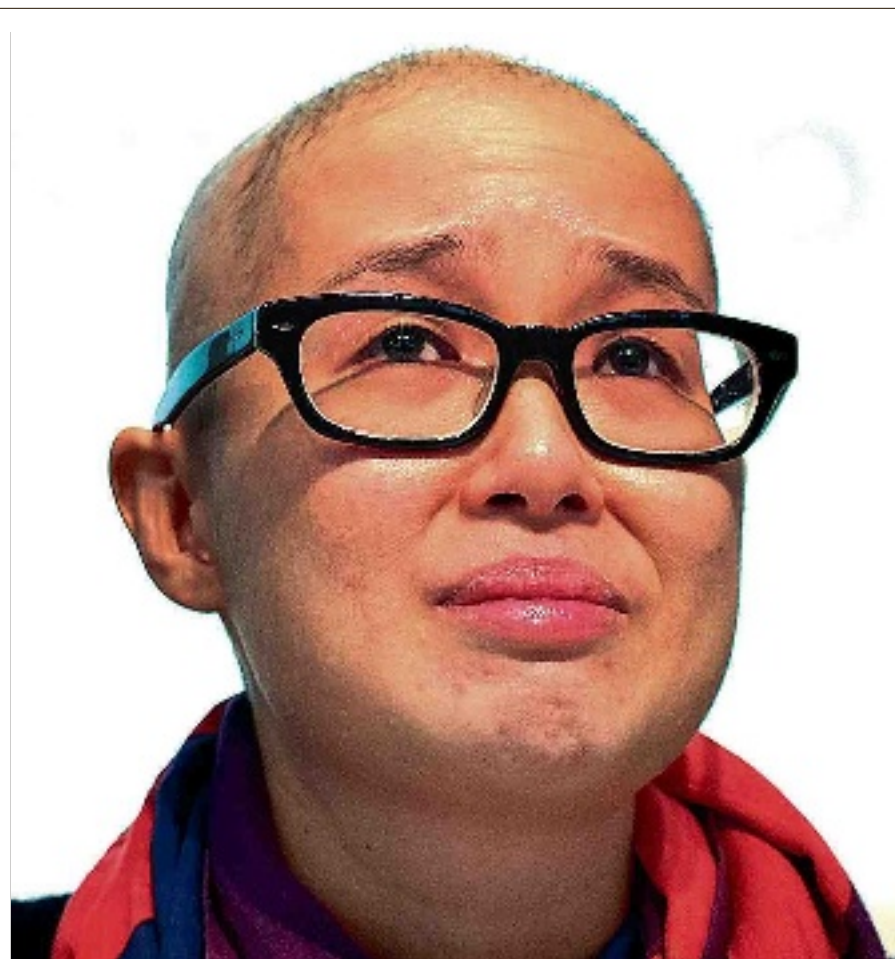
Jury selection underway

The first day of jury selection in the murder trial of Luka Rocco Magnotta has seen five people chosen to hear the case. Magnotta has pleaded not guilty to five charges, including first-degree murder, in connection with the May 2012 slaying and dismemberment of Jun Lin, 33, a Chinese engineering student. **THE CANADIAN PRESS**

Cody Legebokoff

Man who killed 4 women gets life without parole

The northern B.C. man who killed four women has been given a life sentence without the chance of parole for 25 years. Cody Legebokoff's conviction on four counts of first-degree murder automatically assigns him the life sentence. B.C. Supreme Court Justice Glen Parrett told the court as he sentenced Legebokoff that the man fabricated the claim that unnamed drug dealers killed the women. **THE CANADIAN PRESS**



Stem-cell donor found for Quebec woman battling leukemia for a second time

Mai Duong addresses a news conference in Montreal, Tuesday. The Quebec woman's desperate online plea for a compatible stem-cell donor in her bid to fight cancer a second time is shedding light on the lack of minorities on official lists in Canada and abroad. **GRAHAM HUGHES/THE CANADIAN PRESS**

65-year-old Sask. woman deported to Pakistan

Appeal rejected. Jamila Bibi flown out of Toronto Tuesday afternoon: Lawyer

A 65-year-old woman working as a cook in Saskatoon has been deported to her native Pakistan, where her lawyer says her life could be in danger.

Lawyer Bashir Khan says Jamila Bibi was flown out of Toronto on Tuesday afternoon.

He says his client has been barred from re-entering Canada on any visa in the future.

Khan says Bibi fled to Canada in 2007 after being falsely accused of adultery by her husband.

He says traditional Islamic law calls for stoning to death for married people who commit adultery, and adds she could be a target for honour killing.

Bibi's claim for refugee status was rejected and a last-minute appeal to the Federal Court of Canada this week was rejected.

"The applicant has not presented evidence before this court that could support a finding that she will face risks if she is removed to Pakistan that have not been already assessed on

two occasions (by immigration officials)," Justice Marie-Josée Bedard wrote.

"Therefore, and considering that the applicant's allegation of irreparable harm is based on risks, she has not met her evidentiary burden."

In her letter to the UN, Bibi wrote she has worked hard to establish herself in Saskatoon but her application for a work permit was not processed.

"I know my life would be in danger if I am sent back and I would rather to have peaceful death here than be killed for something that I did not do," she wrote.

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