

NEWS RELEASE

For Immediate Release

April 16, 2013

Libraries and BC family lawyers team up to launch new Clicklaw Wikibook *JP Boyd on Family Law*

Over a decade ago BC family lawyer John-Paul Boyd began singlehandedly assembling www.bcfamilylawresource.com into a widely consulted public legal information website on family law in BC. With its pragmatic and plain-spoken tone, the website explained family law and divorce law, court processes and related issues to more than 27,000 British Columbians per month.

On Tuesday, April 16, 2013, the popular website was officially reborn as a collaborative effort through Clicklaw Wikibooks, <http://wiki.clicklaw.bc.ca>. Renamed *JP Boyd on Family Law*, the resource is now fully searchable, downloadable and printable. It is current to the new *Family Law Act* — which replaced the old *Family Relations Act* last month — and will be kept current by an impressive roster of volunteer lawyer contributors, assisted by a multidisciplinary advisory committee comprised of librarians, legal professionals and representatives from the non-profit public legal education and information community. *JP Boyd on Family Law* is the fourth and largest title on the Clicklaw Wikibooks platform, which is part of the Clicklaw program operated by Courthouse Libraries BC.

As the term "wiki" suggests, Clicklaw Wikibooks relies on the open-source software Mediawiki, which also powers Wikipedia. Mediawiki makes it easy for groups of editors to update information quickly, and at the same time supports flexible printing options for public libraries and readers who find it hard to access or use computers, or simply prefer printed resources.

The Clicklaw Wikibooks format offers an advantage over print-only publications that risk being outdated from the date of printing. Clicklaw Wikibooks are continuously updated, and printable in small runs from the same source as what you see online. The platform lays the foundation for print on demand copies to be available in future, eliminating the need for large upfront print costs, while ensuring users with limited online access can still obtain a printed version. Meanwhile, print copies of *JP Boyd on Family Law* are being distributed to public libraries in BC through Courthouse Libraries BC's LawMatters program.

For more information on this project, please contact

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