



The Court of Appeal of Alberta

Notice to the Profession and Public

Launch of the Public Portal of the E-Filing System

June 30, 2020

The Court of Appeal is pleased to announce that it will launch the public portal of its e-filing system called CAMS on August 31, 2020.

This means that as of August 31, 2020, in addition to filing materials online, lawyers and their clients and self-represented parties will be able to access all their case materials online, that is electronically.

What is CAMS?

CAMS, which stands for Court of Appeal Management System, is a case management, document management and electronic filing system designed to better serve the administration of justice, litigants, the Bar and public at large. It digitizes and automates many of the Court's procedures and records.

The Court implemented electronic storage of, and internal electronic access to, court records in 2017. Since then, the Court has dedicated resources to implementing e-filing and e-access to court records. Most recently, given the COVID-19 pandemic, the Court has permitted litigants and lawyers to initiate an appeal, file materials and pay applicable fees, all online.

What is new about CAMS effective August 31, 2020?

The Court will launch the public portal of CAMS on August 31, 2020. From that date, litigants and their lawyers will be able to access online all their case materials and other information about their appeals including the full text of all filed documents, deadlines, hearing dates, outcomes and more.

To be able to do so, litigants and lawyers must register for a CAMS e-filing account. Upon approval as a “registered user”, the registered user will be able to remotely initiate appeals, file documents and access the electronic court record for their own case. To be approved as a registered user, the applicant must agree to the terms and conditions under which the Court will permit electronic access to court records.

Online payment of filing fees, implemented by the Court in March, 2020 in response to the COVID-19 pandemic, will continue to be available.

Advantages of CAMS

For litigants and lawyers, the benefits of CAMS include:

- Increased accessibility to the Court;
- The ability to file documents remotely from office or home at any time of the day or night, thereby eliminating the need for costs related to a physical visit to the courthouse, postage, courier or messenger fees;
- The elimination of paper copies of factums, case authorities and extracts of the Appeal Record, resulting in cost, time and resource savings;
- The ability to access full case information at any time online and view the full text of all filed documents; and
- The ability to electronically receive notices, correspondence and judgments from the Court.

Practice Direction

A Practice Direction will be issued in advance of August 31, 2020 to provide particulars on registration as a registered user and the submission, filing and formatting requirements of documents filed electronically. In addition, the Practice Direction will provide that:

- The official court record will be electronic;
- E-filing will be optional until March 1, 2021, at which time it will become mandatory unless a case management officer grants an exemption;
- A self-represented person not at liberty will have an automatic exemption from e-filing;
- If a document is filed electronically, a paper copy need not be filed; and
- If a document is filed in paper, the Registrar may convert the document into electronic form, in which case the Registrar will not be required to retain the paper version.

A copy of the Consolidated Practice Directions and Practice Notes can be found on the Alberta Courts website at <https://albertacourts.ca> under “Court of Appeal” and

“Publications”. Certain precedents, checklists and forms can also be found on the Alberta Courts website. Since these documents are revised from time to time, please refer to the website for the most recent version.

Training and Resources

The Legal Education Society of Alberta will host a training session for members of the Bar and their support staff in advance of August 31, 2020. Court staff will deliver the training in a webinar format. The session will focus on registering for an account, accessing an electronic court file, filing and formatting documents filed electronically and payment of fees.

The Court will also post comprehensive written materials on its website. In addition, the Registry will be available to answer questions.

Any questions in advance of August 31, 2020 can be directed to the Court’s Case Management Officer, Bobbi Jo McDevitt, by email at bobbi.mcdevitt@albertacourts.ca.



Catherine A. Fraser
Chief Justice of Alberta