



April 20, 2005

The Honourable Irwin Cotler, P.C., M.P.  
Minister of Justice  
Justice Department  
East Memorial Building, 4th Floor  
284 Wellington St.  
Justice Building  
Ottawa, Ontario K1A 0H8

Dear Minister:

**Re: Family Law Reforms and Services**

I am the current Chair of the Canadian Bar Association's National Family Law Section. Our Section's executive includes leaders of the family law bar from every province and territory in Canada.

After much study and consultation with our members, the National Family Law Section expressed strong support for the child-centred initiatives introduced in 2002 through Bill C-22, *Divorce Act* amendments. Proposed changes to terminology in the *Divorce Act* to focus on parental responsibility, funding for support services for families and expansion of unified family courts to be presided over by judges with expertise in family law would all facilitate earlier resolutions for children and families going through separation and divorce.

We recognize that as Minister of Justice you are currently faced with many demands and challenges. We know that you understand how important it is to ensure that the needs of families, and especially children, regain their high priority within your government. We were encouraged to hear that you recently indicated your intention to reintroduce family law reforms this fall. We would urge you to move ahead with these reforms and to reintroduce Bill C-22 as soon as possible.

Yours very truly,

Judith L. Huddart  
Chair, National Family Law Section