

offence carrying a penalty of mandatory life imprisonment that person is entitled to retain a lawyer of his or her own choice. The agreements also ensure that a person otherwise eligible to receive legal aid will not be disqualified as a recipient only because he or she is not a resident of the province in which the criminal proceedings take place.

## 2.6 The federal Department of Justice

Lawyers in the department may be assigned as legal advisers to other government departments or agencies as part of departmental legal services, or to offices in Vancouver, Edmonton, Saskatoon, Winnipeg, Toronto, Montreal, Halifax and Yellowknife as part of regional legal services. Other services are provided through branches at headquarters in Ottawa.

**Advisory and research services.** This section prepares legal opinions requested by the federal government and its departments and agencies.

**Constitutional, administrative and international law.** This section co-ordinates and provides legal advice in the general fields of constitutional and administrative law within the federal government and its various departments and agencies. It is concerned with long-term policy in constitutional affairs and problems of federal-provincial relations. The section also deals with the areas of public and private international law. Canada became a member of The Hague Conference on Private International Law in 1968 and the department is responsible for Canadian participation. This section co-ordinates Canadian activities in the conference and has a similar role with regard to Unidroit, the International Institute for the Unification of Private Law.

**Jurimetrics.** This section of the public law branch involves the application of modern technology to law. The department's Jurimetrics adviser oversees the application of electronic data processing of bills, statutes and regulations and the development of electronic storage and retrieval of statutory information.

**Civil law.** This branch conducts litigation and gives legal advice to the government on all matters of a non-criminal nature arising in Quebec.

**Civil litigation.** The lawyers in this section are responsible for the conduct of non-criminal litigation, other than tax litigation and involving the federal government, originating in those provinces where the common law prevails. This litigation includes customs and excise duty matters, expropriation cases, disputes over contracts, accident claims, suits for defamation and claims for breach of copyright.

**Tax litigation.** The lawyers in this section represent the Crown in all aspects of most federal tax litigation.

**Criminal law.** This branch is responsible for prosecutions for infraction of federal statutes and, in the Northwest Territories and Yukon, the enforcement of criminal law. It advises the minister of justice with respect to amending the Criminal Code of Canada. The criminal law prosecutions section conducts prosecutions in the national capital region, Northern Ontario and Northwest Quebec. The regional offices are generally responsible for prosecutions in all other areas of the country. This section conducts appeals to the Federal Court and the Supreme Court of Canada in criminal matters, recommends appointments of standing agents to the minister and deals with applications for new trials or references to provincial courts of appeal. The criminal law amendment section studies the Criminal Code of Canada with a view to ensuring that it remains effective and workable. It is involved in developing and implementing legislative amendments and negotiates with the provinces on criminal law changes.

**Legislative programming.** The legislation section is responsible for drafting all bills presented to Parliament and for ensuring that they are consistent with the purpose and provisions of the Canadian Bill of Rights. The Privy Council section provides legal advice to the Privy Council office, prepares regulations under statutes, reviews all statutory instruments in accordance with the Statutory Instruments Act and ensures that all regulations are consistent with the purpose and provisions of the Canadian Bill of