



The practicePRO initiative

Helping your practice run in high gear

There are many parts of a successful practice. A breakdown in any one area can impede client service or even lead to a malpractice claim. The practicePRO initiative provides lawyers with tools to keep their practices running smoothly while warning against new hazards that could throw a wrench into the works.



90 events

287 Risk Management Credit programs

50,000 attendees

Events and workshops

Nearly 90 events and programs held by law associations, firms and continuing professional development providers around Ontario featured risk management content from LAWPRO. 287 programs were approved for the LAWPRO Risk Management Credit, reaching a combined audience of 50,000 attendees.

Top downloaded resources in 2015

The articles, checklists, and practice aids on practicePRO.ca were downloaded over 611,000 times in 2015, a 15 per cent increase from the year before. The most popular were:

- 1 E-discovery reading list
- 2 Commercial transaction checklist
- 3 Protecting yourself from cybercrime dangers
- 4 General retainer letter precedent
- 5 LAWPRO fraud fact sheet
- 6 **NEW:** Real estate malpractice claims fact sheet
- 7 20 steps for a successful student-to-lawyer transition
- 8 **NEW:** Limited scope representation resources
- 9 Employee departure checklist
- 10 Managing the lawyer/client relationship booklet

The new Rule 48.14

Helping lawyers manage the transition rules for the new Rule 48.14 of the *Rules of Civil Procedure* is a high priority for the practicePRO program.

- The Rule 48 Transition Toolkit provides advice and tools lawyers and law firms can use to lessen the risk of a claim.
- LAWPRO speakers embarked on sixteen Rule 48 presentations in 2015, with more planned for 2016.

Limited scope representation resources

There is a greater risk of claims due to poor communications and inadequate investigation in a limited scope retainer. The practicePRO program offers the following resources to help:

Best practices tip sheet

Process flow chart for lawyers

Retainer agreement (family law)

Checklist of services

Handouts to help clients:

What is limited scope representation?

Limited scope representation flowchart

Tips for keeping your family lawyer's legal fees down

Fraud and cybercrime prevention

Law firms continue to be lucrative targets for cyber criminals. The AvoidAClaim blog posted over 170 fraud warnings in 2015, based on more than 2,000 suspicious emails forwarded from lawyers around the world. Most were bad cheque scams, however others involved "spear phishing" attempts to redirect funds, and malware that can lock up firm data until a fee is paid.

Malpractice claims fact sheets

The Malpractice claims fact sheets include claims statistics, common scenarios, and tips for avoiding claims in a specific area of law.

Critical dates under the new Rule 48.14:

- New Rule 48.14 is effective January 1, 2015
- Actions commenced on or after January 1, 2012 automatically dismissed without notice 5 years after commencement
- Actions commenced before January 1, 2012 automatically dismissed January 1, 2017
- Dismissals will occur without notice to parties or their counsel