

In 2011, the maximum discount for new lawyers was equal to 40 per cent of the base premium in the first year of practice, declining to a discount equal to 10 per cent of the base premium in the fourth year in practice. For 2012, the new lawyer discount will be increased to 50 per cent of the base premium in the first year declining to 20 per cent in the fourth year.

### Part-time lawyers, restricted area of practice lawyers to pay less

Lawyers who practise law part-time and who meet the LAWPRO part-time practice criteria are eligible for a discount off the base

premium. In 2012, that discount will be increased to 50 per cent from 40 per cent to reflect claims trends for part-time practice.

LAWPRO's analysis of claims trends also suggests that it is appropriate to offer an increased premium discount for those whose practice is restricted to criminal and/or immigration law. Lawyers eligible for this restricted area of practice option will be entitled to an increased premium discount equal to 50 per cent of the base premium (compared to 40 per cent last year).\*

The increased discounts being offered to new lawyers, qualifying part-time practitioners, and lawyers practicing criminal or immigration law will benefit an estimated 6,000 Ontario lawyers in 2012.

\* Note: The maximum available premium discount, even where a lawyer is eligible under more than one of the discount categories – part-time practice, restricted area of practice, or new-to-practice – is 50 per cent.

# Have you considered Excess insurance?

Why should you consider buying Excess insurance this year? Consider these facts:

- One out of every two lawyers who read this article will report a claim or potential claim against them in their career. Of these, one in 100 claims will top the \$500,000 mark.
- Think you're immune to claims because you're an experienced lawyer? Think again: 67 per cent of lawyers who reported a claim or potential claim had 15 years of experience or more. In other words, of the approximately 11,000 claims reported in the past five years, approximately 7,400 were reported by experienced lawyers.

Traditionally, lawyers begin to take on more complex cases with more experience which increases the chance of a claim. Lawyers also take on greater workloads and enter into fields they might not have much experience in, such as dabbling in real estate or corporate law. This increases the likelihood of mistakes.

- Further, keep in mind the work of your partners, associates and employed lawyers, which can potentially expose you to a claim. While you might be diligent, your associates might make a mistake. You could be personally liable for any costs over and

above the \$1 million per claim provided by the primary liability insurance program.

With claims costs on the rise, the time may be right for you to consider purchasing Excess insurance. It only takes one claim to seriously dent your coverage limits, and Excess insurance acts as a backstop should you hit the policy limit under your mandatory plan.

Applying for Excess insurance is easy: Contact our Customer Service department at (416) 598-5899 or 1-800-410-1013. They will send you a no obligation quote. If you chose to increase your coverage limits, you need only apply once. Your Excess insurance is renewed each year without the need for a new application.

Placing your Excess coverage with LAWPRO also simplifies your reporting obligations if you have to report a claim: You report only once – as your primary and Excess insurer are one and the same.

The comfort of knowing you're covered is priceless. Call LAWPRO today to get your no obligation quote.