

TEST YOUR EXPOSURE

Take this test to quickly assess your potential exposure to claims – and your need for Excess Insurance coverage.

How to score

Give yourself one point for each “Agree” that you record.

What do you know about the law practices of others – tenants, associated law practices, co-counsel, back-up or previous counsel, ‘of counsel’, and others, past and present – for whom you may be held responsible.

AGREE 1. I am familiar with their file practices, procedures, and communications, including in-take procedures, documenting retainers, reviewing opinions, docket control and diary systems, completeness of documentation and file retention and storage.

AGREE 2. I am satisfied that the letterhead, office signage, reception and telephone, website, blog, advertisement, and promotional materials, as well as retainers and billing arrangements of my practice and others affiliated with me, consistently and clearly communicate the nature of the relationship of my practice to that of others.

How carefully have you assessed the exposure relating to the areas of law in which you – and those affiliated with you – practise or practised?

AGREE 3. I have not practised and do not expect to practise in claims-prone areas, such as litigation, real estate, corporate, commercial, tax, securities or patents and trademarks law. My past and/or present partners, associates, employees or others for whom I may be held responsible, have not practised and do not expect to practise in these areas either.

AGREE 4. When I or members of my firm have become involved in claims-prone areas of practice, the work has been focused in the hands of a few with the right expertise, or with others under the appropriate supervision or guidance.

What checks and balances are in place for your firm’s trust accounts?

AGREE 5. Neither I nor members of my firm maintain large trust accounts or trust accounts with much activity.

AGREE 6. When it comes to trust accounts, our firm has careful controls in place to govern activity in these accounts; our trust accounts are overseen by more than one lawyer, and two signatures are required for each cheque or withdrawal.

Have you assessed the exposure that comes from potentially high-stakes transactions?

AGREE 7. My firm does not handle major financial transactions and /or represent clients where the stakes are high, such as class action suits, pensions, securities, tax or patents and trademarks.

AGREE 8. I appreciate that the modest beginnings of past clients may have grown, and that the stakes, and any interest accruing, associated with past services, may have grown. As well, I am satisfied that I have plenty of coverage to deal with this exposure.

AGREE 9. My colleagues and I do not rely on the same research, or general or past opinion when we provide opinions to different clients – a situation that could significantly compound our exposure to claims.

What other excess insurance may be in place for your benefit?

AGREE 10. I have arrangements in place with my former firm(s) to ensure that they continue to maintain excess insurance or advise me if they fail to do so, and have reviewed the excess policy and am satisfied that it covers me for my past activities with them.

TOTAL POINTS

Your score and need for Excess Insurance

10 points: You are doing a good job of keeping on top of the practice issues that could result in claims. But that does not mean you are home free. Remember that no matter how well you assess your exposure, claims often arise from the least-expected quarters and Excess Insurance could provide you with that peace of mind that comes with knowing you have sufficient liability insurance coverage in place.

0 points: Your exposure to claims is very likely significant. LAWPRO encourages you to carefully consider your exposure and apply for Excess Insurance coverage. As well, we encourage you to revisit each of the issues raised in this test of your potential claims exposure.

Any other score: The lower your score, the greater your potential exposure to claims. Consider especially those areas where you were unable to “agree” to the test comments. A careful assessment of your and your firm’s practice habits, internal systems and the exposure that your current and past clients represent is always helpful – and a good start in determining your firm’s needs for additional insurance coverage.

For details on LAWPRO’s Excess Insurance program, please see reverse.

INSURANCE MATTERS

OPTIONAL EXCESS LIABILITY INSURANCE COVERAGE

What is it?

- Excess Liability Insurance is an additional layer of protection that would respond should defence and indemnity payments exceed limits provided by the primary LAWPRO policy.

What limits are available?

- LAWPRO offers the following limits which are above the \$1 million per claim/\$2 million in the aggregate limits provided under the primary LAWPRO program:
 - \$1 million per claim/\$1 million in the aggregate
 - \$2 million per claim/\$2 million in the aggregate
 - \$3 million per claim/\$3 million in the aggregate
 - \$4 million per claim/\$4 million in the aggregate
 - \$9 million per claim/\$9 million in the aggregate
- Primary and Excess limits are applicable to claim expenses, indemnity payments and/or costs of repairs together.

Who is eligible to apply?

- Any lawyer in private practice or claiming exemption from the payment of primary insurance premiums may apply.
- Applications for lawyers in private practice must be on a firm-wide basis.

What is the cost?

Premiums under the LAWPRO Excess Insurance program are underwritten and rated on an individual firm basis, based on a number of criteria including: the nature and size of the firm; individual lawyers' areas of practice, practice status and loss exposure of the firm members.

How to Apply

- Call LAWPRO Customer Service to obtain a no-obligation estimate.
- If you wish to apply (based on the estimate) complete an Application for Excess Insurance.
- You can easily and quickly complete your application for Excess Liability Insurance online at the secure section of the LAWPRO website (lawpro.ca). Go to MY LAWPRO to sign in using your Law Society number (or firm number) and confidential password.
- The effective date of this coverage will be 60 days from date of LAWPRO's receipt of the completed Excess Liability Insurance Application form.