

Claims from a failure to know the law are less frequent than people think. However, it is still important to make sure you've got adequate subject-matter knowledge.



1. DO NOT DABBLE IN AREAS OUTSIDE YOUR EXPERTISE

- Law is complex and diverse, so don't stray outside your areas of expertise.
- Recommend your client retain the services of an expert for specialized areas like tax, intellectual property, or franchise law if you don't have a thorough knowledge of those fields.



2. DON'T GIVE ADVICE ON FOREIGN LAW

- Remember that the LAWPRO policy provides protection for claims that result from your "professional services" involving the laws of Canada, its provinces and territories. While coverage is fact specific, generally the LAWPRO policy does not cover non-Canadian law.
- If your client requires assistance from a foreign agent consider having your clients retain a foreign agent directly. Being the conduit for communications with foreign agents increases your exposure to a claim.



3. ALWAYS BE LEARNING

- Subscribe to helpful newsletters, industry publications, blogs and social media within your practice areas to be alerted to new developments that may affect your clients. Many institutions, [including LAWPRO](#), offer CPD programs that can help you keep on top of the latest legal developments and keep your practice management and risk management skills sharp.
- Visit [practicePRO's area of law page](#) for more on particular risks by practice areas



4. ASK FOR HELP

- Ask others for help. Contact colleagues for general help in understanding developments in your area. For general legal research assistance, law librarians are great supports.



5. STAY CONNECTED TO YOUR PEERS

- Connect with colleagues in your practice areas through law associations and consider [getting](#) or [becoming a mentor](#).

LEARN MORE ABOUT MANAGING YOUR RISKS AND KNOWING THE LAW:

See the "[Malpractice Claims Fact Sheets](#)" and the [practicePRO Failure to Know The Law webpage](#).