

What we did in 2022

WE HELPED:

The practicePRO program

The practicePRO program provides risk management, claims prevention and law practice management information for free. Its resources, precedents and checklists are intended to help Ontario lawyers take proactive steps to avoid legal malpractice claims and grow successful and thriving law practices.

In 2022, practicePRO focused on continuing to help lawyers adapt to workplace and practice changes brought about by COVID-19, the ongoing and evolving varieties of fraud, and areas of law with increased claims risks.

practicePRO's multi-pronged fraud prevention approach continued to address wire fraud while also taking on the rapid emergence of ID frauds. Efforts included sending an Alert to educate lawyers about real estate frauds involving private mortgages, regularly speaking on fraud issues at continuing professional development programs, and holding a LAWPRO CPD in September 2022 focused on educating insureds about both wire fraud and ID frauds.

Click each resource to learn more about top programs offered by practicePRO in 2022:



Setting S.M.A.R.T. goals

This worksheet to help define goals that are Specific Measurable Achievable Relevant and Time-based.



CPD: Family Law Tips

Key risk areas in family law and how to effectively manage them are discussed in this CPD. The program materials include the family law claims tip sheet, the family law intake process and how to communicate better with clients over the phone.



CPD: Tips for corporate/commercial lawyers

This program with three LAWPRO speakers includes a number of practicePRO resources including the corporate/commercial claims fact sheet, conflict of interest tips, commercial transactions checklist and extensive coverage of fraud and cybercrime risks.



Free legal research resources for lawyers and law clerks

This article recommends free sources of legal research including CANLII, local law libraries, law blogs and Law Society resources.



CPD: Tips for Wills & Estates Lawyers

Leading wills and estates lawyers and LAWPRO counsel discuss practice trends and tips for success. Over 1,000 views since it was posted on YouTube.



Update about fund transfers

This article looks at how lawyers receive and deliver money from their trust accounts on behalf of their clients as part of a transaction. It discusses the current payment system and attempts to modernize it, the risks of fraud, and links to additional information from the Canadian Bar Association's lender-lawyer working group.



Series opener: Time Management Tips Tuesdays

Time and deadline errors account for 20% of LAWPRO claims. These weekly tips aimed at helping lawyers maximize their time and productivity, include topics like settings goals and fighting procrastination.



LAWPRO Magazine: After Covid-19

This issue features a discussion of how firms can adjust to the new reality of remote work and client expectations as the COVID pandemic receded. It includes articles on changes to the Planning Act and what to do if you have been duped by fraudsters into wiring funds to the wrong account. In addition to being emailed as a web version to all Ontario lawyers, it has been downloaded in full over 1,800 times.



CPD Survival Tips to Prevent Fraud

A follow-up to the Avoiding the Wire Fraud Nightmare CPD from December 2021, this program draws on actual frauds and close calls, reviews the most recent fraud efforts targeting lawyers, law firms and their clients, and provide practical tips to help manage these risks.



Getting started on investing in tech

This article addresses the key concerns that lawyers, paralegals and legal professionals should consider when investing in new technology. It provides tips to get started, and key questions to consider. A technology product assessment worksheet is included with the article.



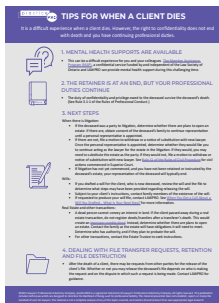
This AvoidAClaim.com post alerts real estate lawyers to the new federal Underused Housing Tax

Lawyers acting for non-resident non-Canadian purchasers were given notice to forewarn their clients of the tax and filing obligations that would come into effect January 1, 2023.



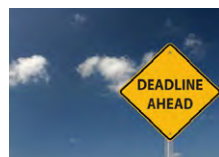
CPD: Tips for real estate lawyers

LAWPRO is seeing a range of real estate claims and new dangerous real estate frauds. Three LAWPRO speakers shared practical tips about key risk areas.



Tips when a client dies

This tip sheet explains the steps to take upon learning that a client has passed away, depending on whether the matter involved litigation, wills or real estate, as well what a lawyer should do if they receive a request to transfer their file.



Small Claims Court deadline change

Reminder lawyers of a change in deadline (3 days to 10 days) in Small Claims Court to email documents to staff.



Most downloaded resources in 2022

- 1 Check your cheques: Five ways to spot fraudulent cheques
- 2 Tips for calculating limitations deadlines accounting for the COVID-19 emergency suspension period
- 3 Non-resident Sale Holdback Flowchart
- 4 Subdivision Control under the Planning Act. What do you need to know?
- 5 General Retainer Letter
- 6 CPD: Tips for Advocates
- 7 CPD: Avoiding the wire fraud nightmare: What you need to know to protect yourself and your clients
- 8 CPD: Tips for Wills & Estates Lawyers
- 9 CPD: Diversity, Inclusion & Cultural Competence to Avoid Claims
- 10 Limitations and Notice Periods Chart
- 11 Tendering correctly: Preserve your client's rights (and avoid a claim!)
- 12 The Top 10 changes to the Planning Act you need to know about and why
- 13 CPD: Survival Tips to Prevent Fraud
- 14 CPD: Family Law Tips
- 15 Managing Conflict of Interest Situations