# LAWPRO Update

Dan Pinnington

President & CEO





# Agenda

2020 Financials

**Claims Trends** 

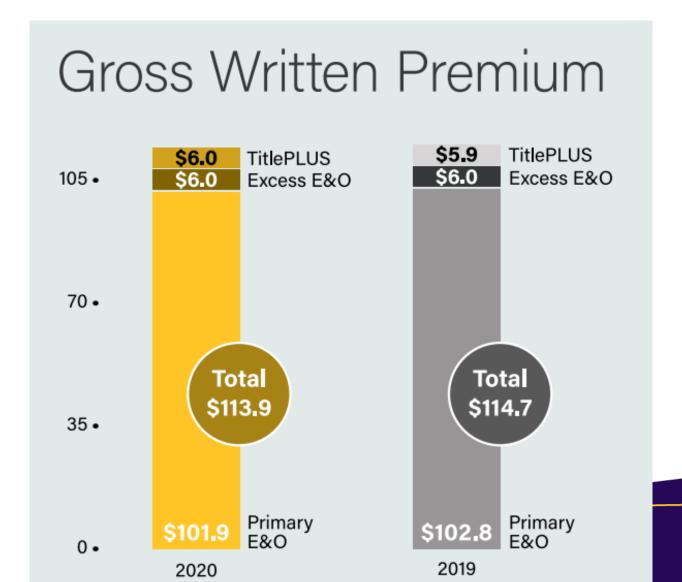
**NEW TitlePLUS** 

Risk Management Resources

Questions

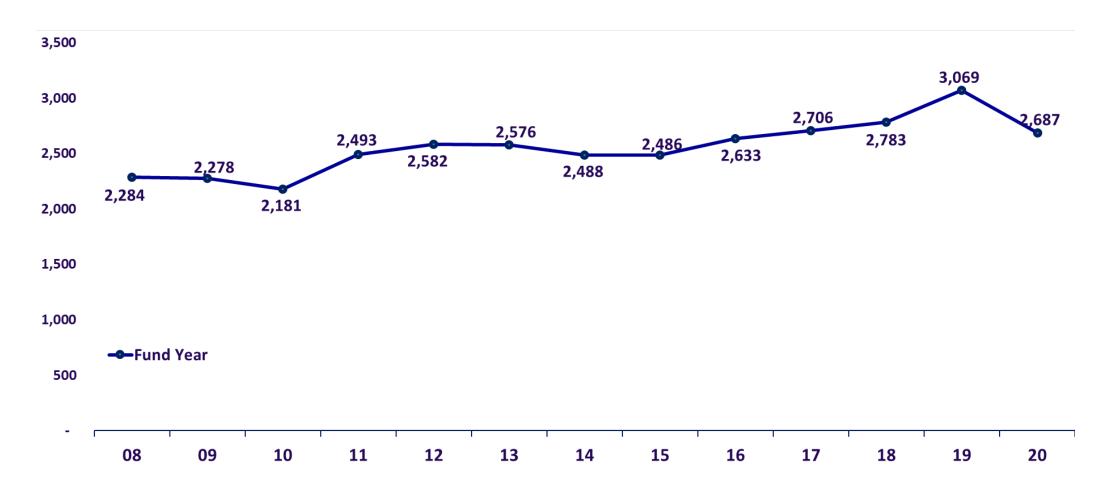




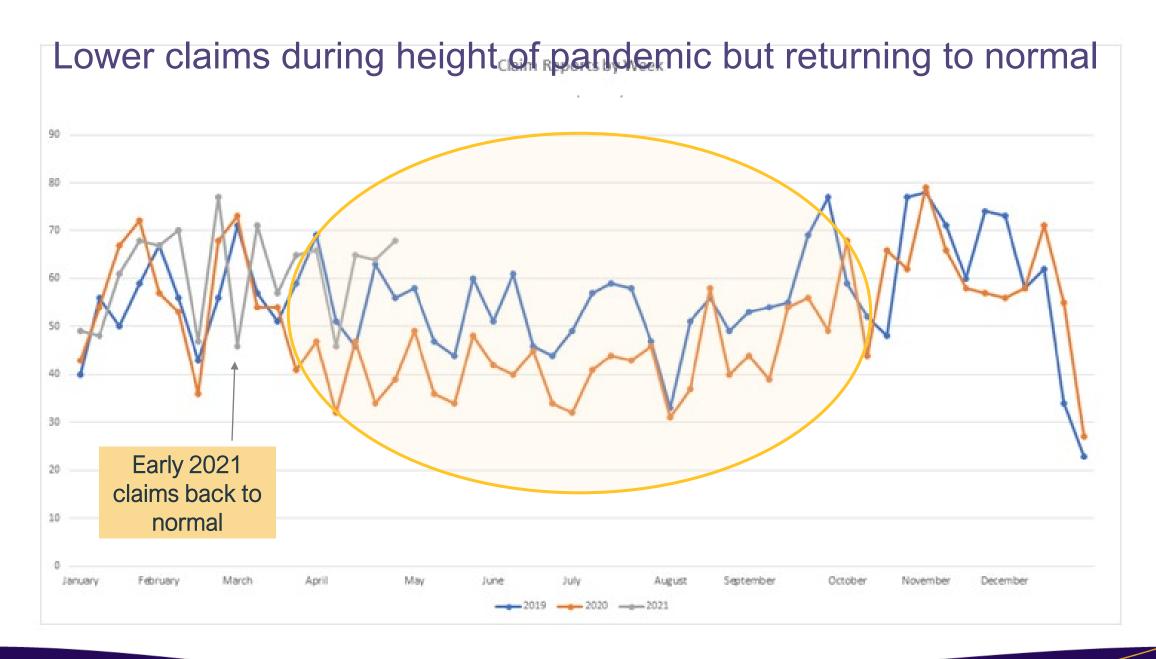




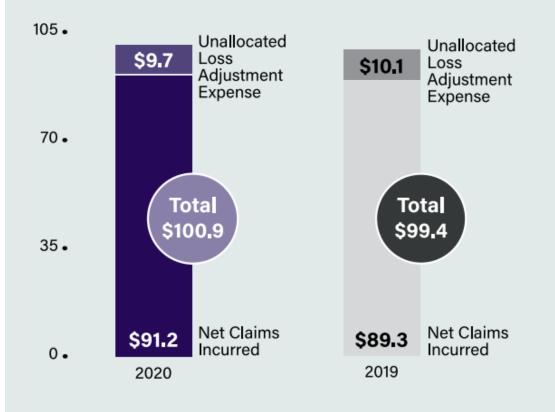
# **Ultimate Claims Count – Ontario Mandatory E&O**



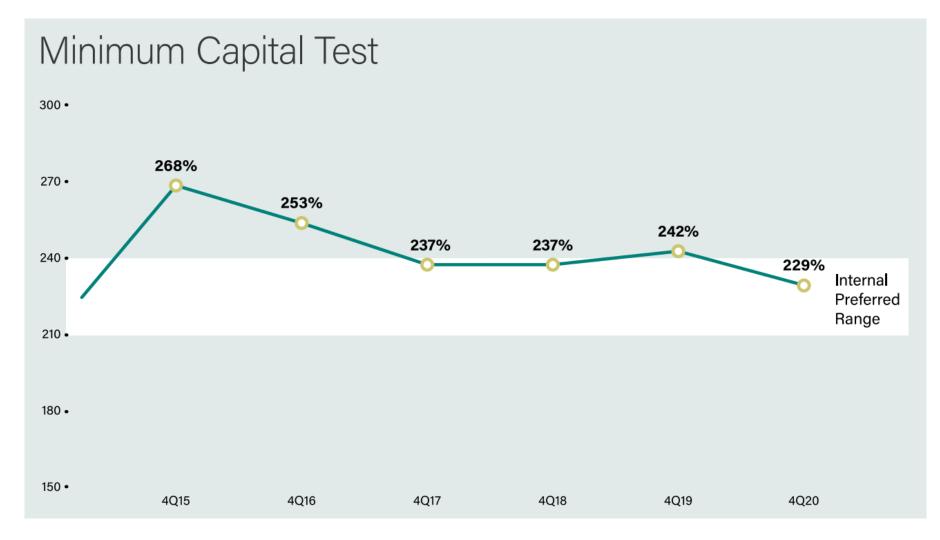




# Net Claims Incurred







# Protecting the profession

# The Minimum Capital Test:

 An insurance company's assets are sufficient to meet its present and future obligations

# Impacted by:

- Insurance risk
- Market risk
- Credit risk
- Currency risk
- Operational risk

# 2020 Claims trends



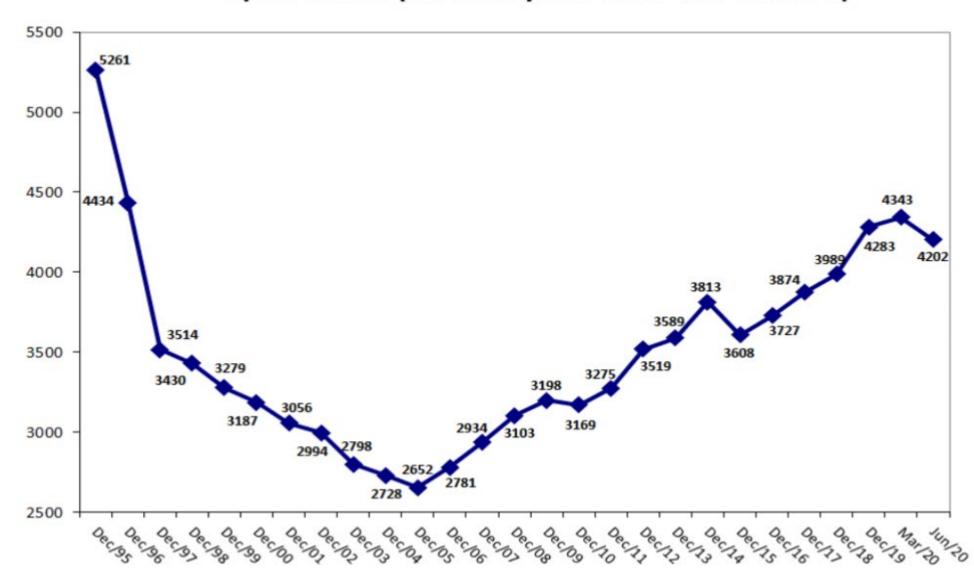
# 2,768 new claims 4,132 open claims



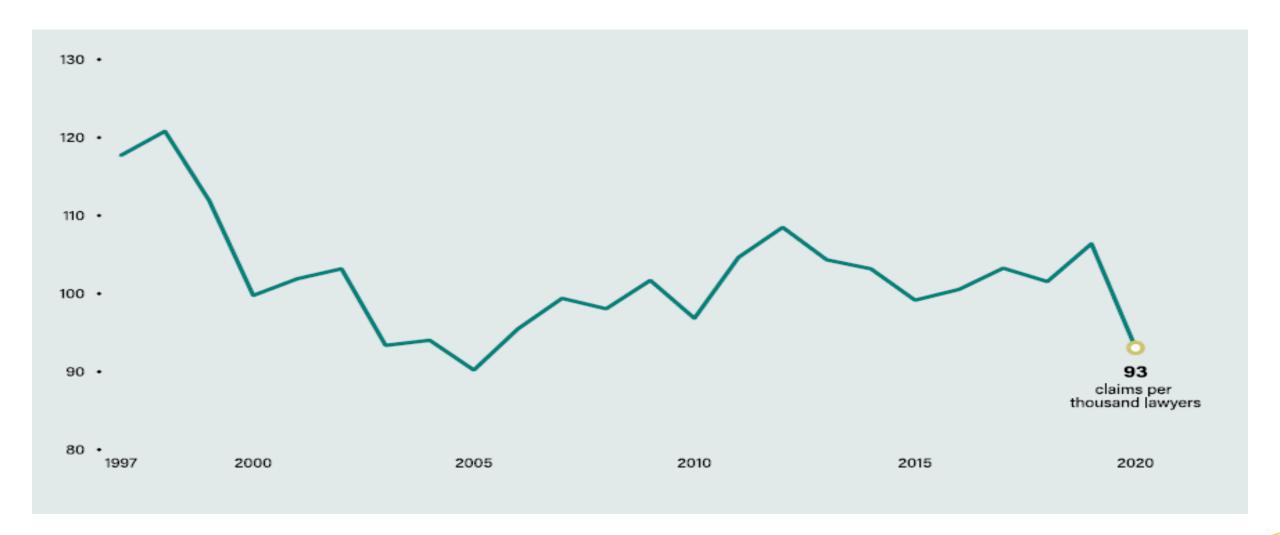
# Number of claims reported and open claims files



# Open Claims (for fund years 1995 and forward)



# **Claims per thousand lawyers**

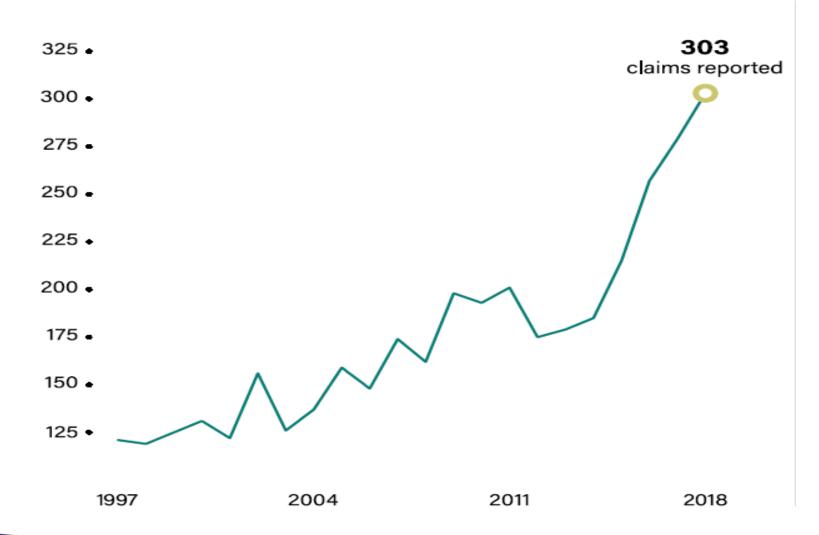




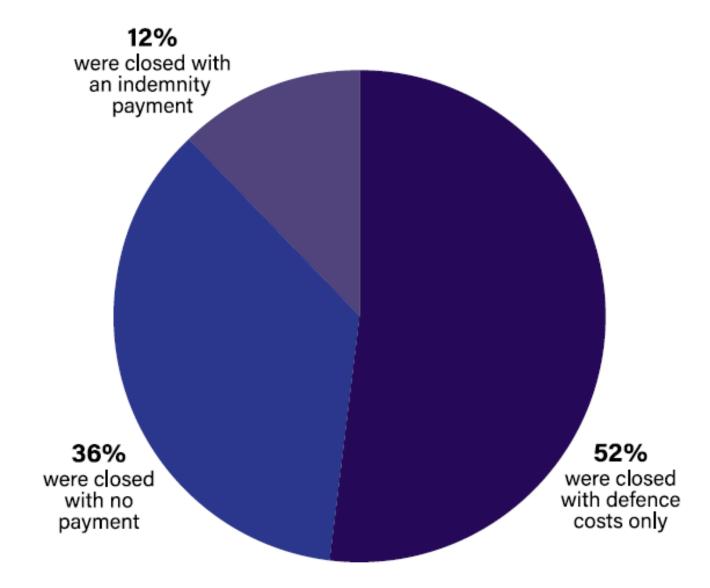
# Average cost per claim



# Number of claims reported with a value greater than \$100,000



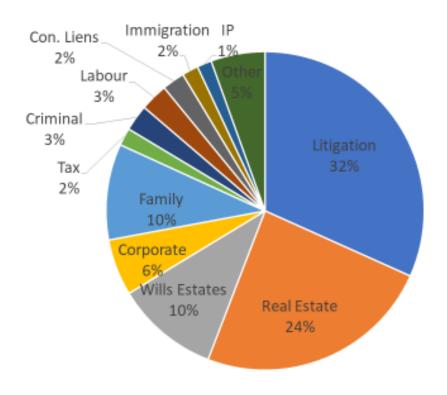
# **Claims by outcome**



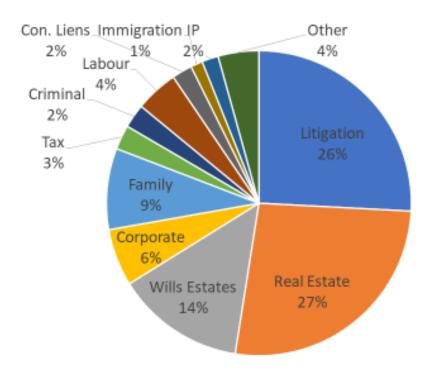
# COVID19 impacts on LAWPRO



# Claims by area of law (count)



Claims reported in all of 2019



Claims reported March 15 to Dec 31/20



# **Malpractice Claims Fact Sheets**

## AWPRO REAL ESTATE CLAIMS FACT SHEET





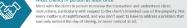


\$34,000 average cost

- average 632 claims per year

### RISK MANAGEMENT TIPS







Remember, the lender is also your client in most residential transactions.



Document your conversations with and instructions from the client This is the best defence against a malpractice claim. Clients may only be involved in one or two real estate transactions in their lifetime and will remember the details, while the yer who sees countless transactions will likely have little specific recollection of one natter. Keep notes of your conversations and document discussions and your actions in a



ur Teraview PIN is only valid for your transactions. As tempting as it may be in a busy estate practice to let the clerk register instruments requiring a lawyer's electronic



**~~** 

# 3 claims area by cost

RISK MANAGEMENT TIPS

Tweeters the Cuter invariant in proving your Typical interpretation of the this insurance policy and be able to explain standard coverages, seclasions and properly-specific exceptions. It is also important to have a detailed understanding of the client's planned use of the property to ensure the coverage obtained applies to those uses.

## AWPRO WILLS AND ESTATES CLAIMS FACT SHEET







## LAWPRO'

## **CRIMINAL CLAIMS FACT SHEET**



\$1.09 million per year





\$20 000 average cost per claim

## 

RISK MANAGEMENT TIPS





# 

AWPRO EMPLOYMENT LAW CLAIMS FACT SHEET



per claim

Longest time before Average 49 claims per year \$18,000 average cost reported claim: 16 years

### RISK MANAGEMENT TIPS



№

Maintain written confirmation of instructions and advice
As in all areas of law, documentation is crucial to helping LAWPRO defend you in the n your conversations with the client and the details of settlement offers, the scope of our retainer (especially in limited retainer cases), your advice on accepting offers, the kellhood of winning or losing a case and the costs involved.



Like the tip above, detailed docket notes offer the benefit of helping protect you in the ovent of a claim. "Conference with client re risks and costs of litigation" is much better than just "conference with client re lawsuit."



Do not dabble in employment law

employment law specialist. We see a number of claims in this area resulting from a lawyer not being aware of the correct forum to bring a client's matter [Superior Court, Federal Court, Ontario Labour Relations Board, etc.] or not being aware of the related



### Be prepared for nuisance claims

The emotional toll of a job loss and resulting legal fight can leave lawyers in this area The embound out or join to sal and executing regar input an insert lawyer in it in a new more likely to have claims made against them for 'rivil' rights violations' or 'malicious prosecution', alleging wrongdoing, bias or colluding against the client. These often coincide with Law Society complaints or Human Rights Tribunal claims against a former employer (and the insured who represented them), and in several cases are brought employer jain time insure who represented occurs, and in several cases are stronger, by self-represented or versitious litigans. LAWPRIO that yet to pay an inferentity on this type of claim, but they cost on average \$20,000 to resolve. While they may be difficult to guard against, lating the above active to keep detailed notes documenting instructions, as well as maintaining high standards of professionalism in heated disputes will help ward

### RISK MANAGEMENT TIPS



### Ensure the client understands your recommendations

Falling to offerchedy communicate with the releast in the legest claims patient in the legest claims of the legest claims and the legest claims patient will be replications of choices proposed. A lawyer choiced provide detailed recommendations have due to the legest claims of the legest claims are removed that the place decision is the claims of an all unadjust or the case, including a removined rather than place decision is the claims. So less thank the legest communications (using a checklist and taking notes provides a valuable record of your efforts in the centry our as freed with a claim.)



Lawyers should enquire about clients' circumstances - for instance, immigration status or inligenous identity to ensure that advice takes those details into account, Clients whose immigration status may be at its should be advised to consult an immigration lawyer, and that advice should be documented.



We frequently see claims involving a failure by the lawyer to communicate the potential we require yet claims arounding a faulter by the insyret to communicate the potential status. The instances, a fluid driver constructed of a DM may able control unemployed in a result. A non-Canadian seretenced to six morths or more may lose the night to apply deli result. A non-Canadian seretenced to six morths or more may lose the night to apply about permanent enidency. We how this lose morths and light gives of communicational deferrise choices, such as a decision not to call the accused as a witness, or failure to apply for participation in an eignion interfrice) program.



Early reporting of client complaints offers the best opportunity for claims repair. Lawyers are encouraged to report allegations immediately, even where they arise during trial, so and calcolorage to report reagents immensionly, even where they are securing trust the LUMPING counsed can provide risk menagement advance, in an appeal alleging, independent and the LUMPING counsel, the Crown test the test last provide risk grant and affairst independent and appeal, it alleges to support the securing counsel, the Crown that are set to the securing counsel and affairst counsel and appeal, it alleges to the view and which the present given a still dust it measures, and if is, it how it can be done so that privilege is maintained and there is no of registerior.

## AWPRO FAMILY LAW CLAIMS FACT SHEET





AWPRO CORPORATE/ COMMERCIAL CLAIMS FACT SHEET

Average 180 claims

Carefully document instructions, advice and steps taken Carreling documents, instructions, advice and supps statent faking detailed notes and documenting client conversations can minimize misunderstandings. Claims often involve a dispute over what was said and done, or not said and done, or confusion over who was to loak later which sake. LAWPRD'S Checklist for Commercial Transactions has a detailed list of matters to consider when communicative with clients.

Follow the firm's conflict checking system and take action on conflicts Most law firms have rigorous conflicts checking systems that do a good job of catching potential conflicts. The problem is that these warnings are often ignored. Listen to your

cincts and ask yourself "who is my client"? You can't always objectively judge your own

meants and as you see with a my clear. I not all it almost quicknery jugge you will conflict, so get the opinion of someone outside the matter. Send clients for ILM when appropriate. Keep in mind that conflicts can unexpectedly arise in the middle of a matter. If them's a male operaterial conflict, decise or terminise the retainer, even if it means turning down work for a good client or turning down substantial fees.



#5 claims area by count

## RISK MANAGEMENT TIPS



### Proactively direct and control client expectations

- average 210 claims per year

mily law clients can be emotional and difficult to manage. They may also have changing d unrealistic expectations. This makes it especially important that you manage their pectations from the very start of the retainer. Helping clients avoid disappointment and surprises will significantly lower your claims exposure



refully explain domestic contracts or settlement agreements so that clients cannot er allege that they did not understand the contents of these agreements.



### Be aware of the limitations of your legal knowledge

law is one of the most complex practice areas, with federal and provincial statutes uminous case law. No lawyer can hope to be an expert in all aspects of this field, so planning) or third party experts (e.g. tax advisors, accountants, appraisers or actuaries).



## Make better use of checklists and reporting letters

rs should consider as they conduct the interview on a domestic contract matter and they meet with the client to review and sign the document. A final reporting letter aim, which may arise long after you've forgotten the details of a particular file



## Don't lower your standards for limited scope matters

mentiny the discress collection or tasks that can be uncertained in a completer tasks and confirm the scope of the retainer in writing. Clarify document all work and communications. Recognite that unbundled legal services are not appropriate for all lawyers, all client, or all legal problems. Sample retainess and checklisks can be found the Limited Scope Representation Resources page at gracticepro.co//imitediscope.

# LAWPRO FRANCHISE LAW CLAIMS FACT SHEET

RISK MANAGEMENT TIPS







### Average total cost Average 9 claims per year \$1.4 million per year

\$148,000 average cost





rs need to know notice provisions that apply in certain cases (ex: Crown and micipal liability, construction lien matters). Take the time to review limitations and notice periods on the practicePRO Limitation Period Resources page.



### Keep your files moving using practice management tools

Consider the key deadlines and the steps you will need to take to move your client's



Under Null 4-8.34 of the Nulse of CVNI Procedure, matters commenced after January 1, 2012 will be dismissed on a rolling basis five years after commencement. These diamissals will happen without notice to the parties. Use the <u>Nule 48 Transition Tocikit</u> to help you avoid administrative dismissals all aims.



### Talk to clients more often. Don't rely solely on email

owyers are increasingly using emails to communicate with clients, and this is resulting in nisunderstandings. Clients and lawyers read things into emails that aren't there, miss the nearing of what is said, or read between the lines and make assumptions. During a long itigation matter, arrange some face-to-face meetings, or at least a phone or video call if



### As in all areas of law, this is crucial to helping LAWPRO defend you in the event of a

noversations with the client, and document in writing things like the details of ottlement offers, the scope of your retainer (especially in limited retainer cases), your drice on accepting offers, and the likelihood of winning or losing a case and the costs

## **LITIGATION CLAIMS FACT SHEET**

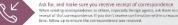


# Longest time before Average 46 claims per year



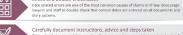
**IP LAW CLAIMS FACT SHEET** 

## RISK MANAGEMENT TIPS





# Check and double-check dates





Get in the habit of making payments and completing filings well before actual deadlines. In the event there is an unexpected problem, the extra time will allow you to take corrective action before the decidline has passed. Document your advice to clients about the need for timely instructions.



DOILY I give divoke oil roteign law. Hemember that the LMMPRD policy provides protection for claims that are the result of your "professional services" for others involving the practice of the law of Canada, its provinces and territories. What will or will not be covered can be very batt-specific, but you should expect you are not covered for work involving non-canadian law. If your client requires assistance from a foreign agent consider having your clients retain foreign agents directly. Being the conduit for communications with foreign agents increases your



# take uniter to decid radii of investigati for manifold and the decided and the decided whether it is invising for mental registration and corporate deciment, rest, whether it is invising for mental registration and corporate contribution of a corporate lease matter, or failing to ensure that two margin decided corporates contribute contributions are jurisdiffuended compression, resulting restricting decided to a superfluence of the first bed to the job right, even if it takes a bit larger or namely contribute on another day, Males for eight, interesting the first is of the production of the decided of the contribution of the part of the decided of the contribution of the part of the decided of the contribution of the part of the decided of the contribution of the part of the decided of the contribution of the contribution of the decided of the contribution of the contributi

erialized areas like tax. IP or franchise law if you don't have a thorough knowledge of





## #3 claims area by count

## RISK MANAGEMENT TIPS



### Ask client probing questions

Ass Chern prooning questions.

Some lawyers are not asking the questions that could uncover facts that could cause problems later. They also do not make it clear wake indomenation the client needs to provide, Are all the bereficiaries learned contently of which about giftowers. Where all assets dentified and how are they registered? Was there a previous marriage? Ask, ask, ask, And then of a reporting letter to confirm energylistic that vas discussed.



Take time to compare the drafted will with your notes assurabli file obvious advice, but we see claims where the will did not adequately reflect the claims's instructions, or overfooled some important contingencies. Many of these representations can be updated by simply reviewing the notes from the meeting with the clean, can help to lave a nother largue proof read the will, or set it aside for a few days are add to the first help of the continue of the continue of the continue of the continue of the read to that first he will find the position of the reficiaries or disappointed would be beneficiaries. Ask yourself if you were going to

# Confirm as best you can the capacity of the testator and watch for

With greater numbers of elderly clients, lawyers need to be vigilant about those issues. Meet with the client separately from those benefiting from a will change, and have written proof that the client understands what they are asking and the advice you've given. And while it is difficult to be completely certain of capacity, be sure to document the steps you've taken to satisfy yourself that the client's capacity has been verified.

challenge this will, on what basis would you do so?

Don't act for family members or friends of they were strangers. Remember, if a claim arises it will likely not be from the friend



(3) # 5 claims area by cost # 4 claims area by count

### \$20,700 average cost per claim

## Familiarize yourself with the Arthur Wishart Act disclosure requirements awyers acting for franchisors or franchisees should ensure that their clients are aware of the disclosure obligations which the Act (and the courts) place on franchisors. Inadequate

Franchise law is a complex area of law. Lawyers doing work in this area should have sufficient expertise to handle that work, and if not, they should refer the matter to sometime who has funchise law expertise. The client should also nettin a charaftered accountant familiar with franchises. The detailed financial disclosure requirements can be



A lawyer might fail to identify a commercial transaction as a franchise arrangement



### Carefully document instructions and advice



## deadlines and the programs and criteria change frequently. Discuss potential consequences of criminal matters

Know the changes in the law and program criteria

LAWPRO IMMIGRATION CLAIMS FACT SHEET

Don't overpromise, and keep your client informed

Claims against immigration lawyers are often prompted by a client's disappointmen Cann against immigration in wyers are often promised by a client's disappointment. Support of the promised of

We frequently see claims involving a failure by the lawyer to communicate the potential ramifications of guilty pleas and custodial sentences on immigration status. A non-Canadian sentenced to six months or more may lose the right to apply for permanent esidency. When meeting with a new immigration client, be sure to ask about criminal convictions and charges. If a client is facing a criminal charge, advise them to retain



Make sure the client is made aware (in writing) of all deadlines for submitting documents to you and knows the consequences of a delay or failure to provide documents. Give the client a response date that allows for follow-up (i.e. outside the response date imposed











# RISK MANAGEMENT TIPS

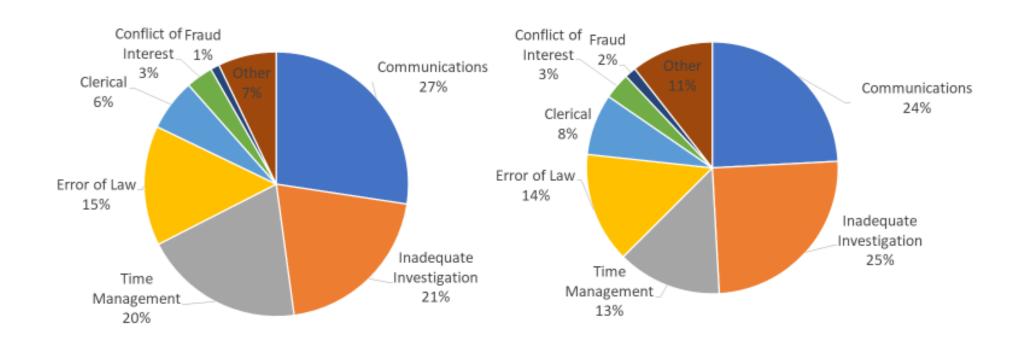
# Familiarize yourself with Limitations and Notice Periods





## Have written confirmation of instructions and advice

# Claims by global description of loss (count)



Claims reported March 15 to Dec 31/20

Claims reported in all of 2019

# COVID19-related claims

- 73 pandemic-related claims
- 3 main types
  - Loss of value in asset or deal
  - Limitation/procedural deadlines
  - Practice management/operations
- No obvious wellness-related claims
  - A few where things don't add up
    - "The notice came in and I didn't deal with it.."
  - Some clusters of claims



- LAWPRO co-funds the Member Assistance
   Program (MAP) with the Law Society of Ontario
- The MAP is a confidential health and wellness service, operated by Homewood Health and provided at no cost to all lawyers, paralegals, law students, and judges in Ontario, as well as their family members





Introducing the *new* TitlePLUS





# The NEW TitlePLUS launches May 17!

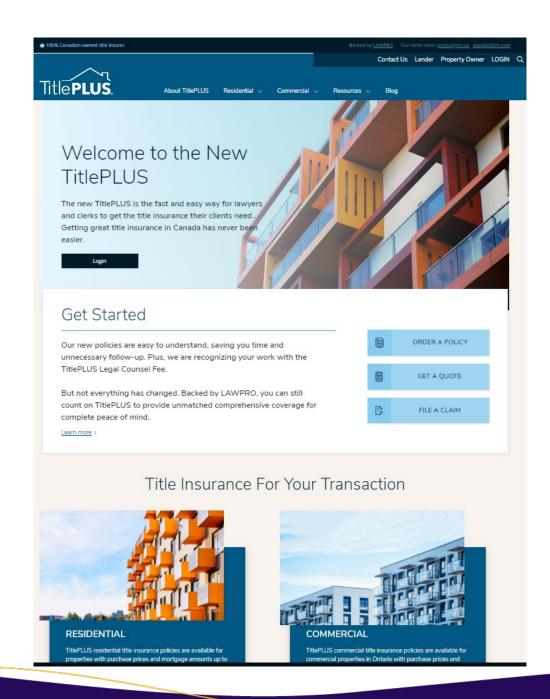
A one-stop, easy process for lawyers and clerks to get great title insurance coverage for clients.

# Our new platform offers:

- ✓ An intuitive application website that is streamlined and easy to navigate
- ✓ TitlePLUS Legal Counsel Fee to recognize the work done by lawyers
- ✓ Easier, faster underwriting and one-step issuance
- ✓ Fewer administrative roadblocks and easier processing
- ✓ No more entering common title matters
- ✓ Separate policies for owners and lenders

# New website:

titleplus.ca









# Introducing the NEW Title PLUS

# Rebuilt with you in mind

- · A new, intuitive website and application
- TitlePLUS Legal Counsel Fee to recognize your work
- · Easier, faster underwriting and one-step issuance
- Separate policies for owners and lenders
- · Most policies automatically include legal service coverage

Built for lawyers, backed by LAWPRO

We know your business Give us a second look

# What you've always wanted

Efficiency

Simplicity

✓ TitlePLUS Legal Counsel Fee

Expertise you can count on

Excellent protection for your clients



# THE VERDICT IS IN The **NEW TitlePLUS** is better than before

The new TitlePLUS\* is fast and easy-to-use. It's a one-stop shop to purchasing title insurance that busy legal professionals expect. Within minutes, you can complete an easy online application and receive a user-friendly title insurance policy that automatically includes legal service coverage.

Backed by LAWPRO\*, TitlePLUS is the only Canadian-owned title insurance provider that puts lawyers first. We understand that lawyers are a critical part of the real estate transaction, and we are committed to offering a service that values lawyers' expertise.

From instant quotes to streamlined underwriting to simplified sign-up, all our enhancements are designed with lawyers at the forefront. And, when real estate transactions are more complex, our team of specialists are available to make sure your clients get the solutions they need.

## BETTER TECHNOLOGY

- . A new and modern application process that's easier to use
- · No more entering common title matters
- · More information at your fingertips so you can finish faster
- · Complete your commercial application in Ontario online

## CLEARER WORDING, SEPARATE POLICIES

- · Separate owner and lender policies to provide ease of use and clarity
- · Simplified language so your clients understand what they are getting
- · Modern format and clearer layout
- Most policies automatically include legal service coverage

## UNDERWRITING TO EASE YOUR BUSINESS

- · Auto-generated underwriting removes the guess work
- · Searching efficiencies save time
- · Simplified policy issuance process
- . Coming soon: insure more than one mortgage or multiple properties for the same transaction in one application

## DESIGNED TO PUT YOU FIRST

- · TitlePLUS Legal Counsel Fee to recognize your work
- · Easy sign-up and instant guotes
- · Expert guidance when you need it

The new TitlePLUS launches on May 17 at titleplus.ca and will be available soon on RealtiWeb®. Watch for further announcements coming soon.

Contact us for a free demo



titleplus@lawpro.ca



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# Risk management, claims prevention and law practice management resources



Visit <u>AvoidAClaim.com</u> for daily insights on claims prevention, practice management, and current frauds targeting lawyers.



# Looking ahead

- Watch the markets
- Handle incoming claims
- Monitor claims trends
- Keep pushing wellness message
- Questions....

# Thanks and questions please

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# More info:





www.lawpro.ca/excess





www.practicepro.ca