



“A well-managed work load and good office systems will reduce your stress...”

Photo by Ted Power/NSBS

I am pleased to have been able to visit the majority of the County Bars to introduce myself and the Risk and Practice Management program during the past few months. I have been well received and the members I have met are excited about the program.

The Risk and Practice Management program is an initiative of the Lawyers' Insurance Association of Nova Scotia (LIANS). A program goal is to reduce the frequency and severity of our claims.

A well-managed work load and good office systems will reduce your stress and help you manage the risks you face in practice. It has been found that claims frequently result when there are inadequate office systems and procedures, poor communications, failure to know or apply the law, and failure to follow up. When such problems exist, claims arise because of missed deadlines, conflicts, failure to adequately supervise delegated work, inattention to detail and inadequate documentation of work.

These underlying practice behaviors that give rise to claims are being identified from our claims statistics. You will be provided with practice aids, tools and resources to help generate practice behavior that will reduce your exposure to claims.

In February 2006 I presented at the Real Property Conference — Crown Interests and Due Diligence under LRA, discussing the professional and legal obligations associated with giving and accepting undertakings. This paper can be viewed online at the LIANS website (www.lians.ca) under the section titled Loss Prevention Resources.

As well, on the LIANS website under Loss Prevention Resources, you can access an article I wrote entitled Wrapping Up and Winding Down. This article discusses what to consider when closing a practice and refers to guidelines for file closing, retention and destruction.

I will be participating in an education session at the **Annual General Meeting at Digby Pines, on June 23, 2006**. This is a **Friday morning session**, where I will discuss the following topic: **Reducing Risk and Stress in Your Practice**. I look forward to seeing many of you there.

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