



MALPRACTICE ALERT!

OBLIC

May 2001 • 1650 Lake Shore Drive • Columbus, OH 43216-2708 • 614/488-7924 • Ohio Wats 1-800-227-4111

Ohio Bar Liability Insurance Company

OBLIC Convention Seminar

"SmartWork: Using technology to work "smarter," not harder!"

For the thirteenth consecutive year, OBLIC will co-sponsor its annual Loss Prevention Seminar with the OSBA Solo, Small Firm & General Practice Section. The seminar will be held on Thursday, May 10, 2001 from 2:00 P.M. to 5:15 P.M., during the OSBA Annual Convention in the Crowne Plaza/Dayton Convention Center in Dayton.

Back by popular demand, our technology speaker from the complimentary seminar presented by OBLIC and OSBA CLE last fall, Paul J. Unger of Henley March Unger Consulting in Columbus will present **"Technology for Today and Beyond."** His topic will inform attendees of tech solutions they can take back to their offices and really use. If you heard him last fall, this won't be a repeat but will build on the information in that presentation. If you've never heard him, be prepared to get excited about some practical ways to let you work "smarter!"

Also returning by attendee request in the Seminar Evaluations, the Disciplinary Counsel, Supreme Court of Ohio, Jonathan E. Coughlan, will discuss **"Ethical Considerations,"** with particular emphasis on attorney trust accounts.

The seminar will provide two hours of general and one hour of ethics CLE. Materials for the seminar will be published in the Law Office Management Handbook: SmartWork: Using Technology to Work "Smarter," Not Harder!

With the theme of the convention *Flying Into The Future*, you won't want to miss this informative seminar. There is no extra charge to attend; however, you must be registered for the OSBA Convention. Half-day and full-day rates are available, with savings for early registration.

If you are unable to attend, please note that the Handbook will be mailed to all OBLIC policyholders for arrival after the Convention. For further information, you may call Gretchen Koehler Mote, Director of Loss Prevention, at OBLIC, 1-800-227-4111.

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Legal Malpractice Claim Frequency

Attorneys often question which areas of practice give rise to the greatest number of claims. In this contest, claim frequency by areas of law for the past five years may be of interest. The relative percentage to the total number of claims is indicated below:

Plaintiff Personal Injury	23.5%
Family Law	14.2%
Probate, Estate & Trusts	10.6%
Real Estate	10.3%
General Litigation	7%
Commercial	5.7%
Collection	5.4%
Worker's Comp.	4.9%
Corporate	4.4%
All other areas	14.5%

Plaintiff Personal Injury practice still accounts for slightly less than one-fourth of all claims reported to OBLIC. There is almost no change in this number from prior years.

Family law now ranks second of the list, up from prior studies in the past. Real estate has decreased from being the second most frequent area giving rise to claims to being the fourth. Although family law claims, as a percentage, rose slightly, real estate claims decreased by several percentage points. It is not clear why real estate claims are less frequent, as a percentage of the total number of claims, than was true in the past.

Over 50% of claims closed since January 1,

1996 have not involved a payment to a claimant. This is consistent with OBLIC's past experience prior to 1996.

One cannot assume from this data that the top areas of practice for claim frequency are the "riskiest" areas. In fact, a large percentage of OBLIC – insured lawyers do work in plaintiff personal injury, family, probate/estate and real estate areas of law. It is not surprising, or unexpected, that most claims arise from the areas of practice with the greatest exposure. Plaintiff personal injury practice probably posed some additional risk over most other areas due to filing – statute of limitations issues that can be difficult to "repair."

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