



# MALPRACTICE ALERT!

## OBLIC

Ohio Bar Liability  
Insurance Company

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### CLE COUPON REIMBURSEMENT INCREASE TO \$250

The OBLIC Board of Directors dramatically increased the value of the CLE coupon reimbursement for lawyers insured on a full-time basis.

This change applies to policies with effective dates of April 1, 2006 and thereafter.

The current coupon reimbursement provides for a credit of up to \$75.00 for anyone of the following:

- OSBA CLE Institute Seminar (excluding online seminar)
- OSBA CLE Institute Publication
- Annual Convention Registration
- District Meeting Registration

The new coupon reimbursement will provide a credit of up to \$250 for any one or more of the above. In other words, the coupon can be applied to as many of the above as desired until the \$250 limit is reached.

**Lawyers insured on a part-time basis will continue to receive the \$75 amount, but this amount can now be applied to more than of the above, until the \$75 amount is reached.**

The coupon reimbursement must be used for credit during the policy period. If a policy terminates for any reason, the eligibility for reimbursement will terminate at the termination date of the policy.

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### PART-TIME POLICY ENHANCED

Solo practice lawyers who are insured on a part-time basis will receive a coverage enhancement with all part-time policies issued with effective dates of March 1, 2006 and thereafter. All such policies currently

provide that any "claim expense" (legal fees and expenses incurred in defending a claim) will reduce the policy limit of liability. The Board of Directors has approved a \$25,000 "credit" towards "claim expense" before the limit of liability is reduced by such expense.

For example, assume that a policy has a \$100,000 limit, and claim expense is incurred of \$20,000. The balance of the policy limit of liability left to pay any settlement or judgment is reduced to \$80,000.

With such policies effective March 1, 2006 and thereafter, the limit of liability would remain \$100,000 in this example, as claim expense did not exceed \$25,000.

Assume the same example, but with claim expense of \$30,000. Under the current coverage, the remaining limit would be \$70,000. With the \$25,000 claim expense benefit, the remaining limit would equal \$95,000 (\$25,000 benefit applied to \$30,000 in claim expense, leaving \$5,000 applied to reduce the limit of liability).

This enhancement has been added to part-time policies without an increase in premium rates.

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### PROGRAM SET FOR 2006 OSBA CONVENTION

***MASTERING THE BUSINESS OF THE LAW:  
STRATEGIES FOR BUILDING A HIGHLY  
SUCCESSFUL PRACTICE***

Nationally known speaker Dustin Cole will present an all-day program on Thursday, May 4, 2006 co-sponsored by the OBLIC, the Council of Governors of the OSBA Solo, Small Firm & General Practice Section, and the OSBA Lawyers' Assistance Committee

at the Ohio State Bar Association Convention to be held in the John S. Knight Center-Crowne Plaza Quaker Square in Akron, Ohio.

The morning segment from 8:45 AM to Noon, **MASTERING THE BUSINESS OF THE LAW: PRACTICE AND RISK MANAGEMENT STRATEGIES FOR BUILDING A HIGHLY SUCCESSFUL PRACTICE** will focus on solid procedures for enhancing client relations and strengthening your practice.

The afternoon segment from 2:00 PM to 5:15 PM, **MASTERING THE BUSINESS OF THE LAW: ETHICAL MARKETING FOR BUILDING A HIGHLY SUCCESSFUL PRACTICE**, will look at new marketing strategies and what you can do under the proposed Ohio Model Rules.

The afternoon segment will also feature an **ETHICS UPDATE** by Jonathan Coughlan, Disciplinary Counsel, Ohio Supreme Court, and **SUBSTANCE ABUSE** presentation by Scott R. Mote, Executive Director, Ohio Lawyers Assistance Program.

Ohio Bar Liability Insurance Company (OBLIC) and the Council of Governors of the Solo, Small Firm & General Practice Section have co-

sponsored a program at the OSBA Annual Convention since 1990. We're looking forward to a dynamic program again this year!

Mark your calendar now and plan to attend! Please note the dates of the 2006 **OSBA Annual Convention** from **May 3rd – 5<sup>th</sup>**. See you there!

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## **PRIVACY UPDATE**

The New York Bar Association's suit before the U.S. Court of Appeals, District of Columbia, against the Federal Trade Commission seeking to exempt lawyers and law firms from the Gramm-Leach-Bliley Act was successful.

The FTC had sought to require lawyers, under the Act, to provide annual "privacy notices" to their clients if their practices involved certain areas of law, such as tax planning, estate planning, certain real estate matters, and personal bankruptcy matters.

The Court found that the FTC's attempt to regulate practicing attorneys under the Act was not a reasonable interpretation of the Act.

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