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In This Issue

[Fraud Update](#)

[Balance](#)

[Mind Your Smartphone](#)

[Keeping on Top of
Technology](#)

[Publications](#)

[Fall LSM Programs](#)

[Law Firm Leadership
Conference: CBA](#)

[Online CLE: CBA](#)

New season, new look. We've switched to a different service to create and deliver eLaw. Your feedback, especially regarding technical issues, is welcome.

Contact us at elaw@lawsociety.mb.ca.

Fraud Update

The Law Societies of both [Alberta](#) and [B.C.](#) have recently issued fraud alerts to their members detailing new variations of fraud transactions taking place in their provinces and linking to related resources. Learning how to recognize and avoid these scams is the best prevention and a wealth of information exists to that end. As noted below, the Law Society of Manitoba is presenting a program on fraud prevention on September 23, 2009. See also:

- LawPRO's [Fraud Practice Aids webpage](#), which contains a collection of articles on fraud related topics. Particularly helpful are the new [Fraud Fact Sheet](#), which lists the red flags to look for in the typical fraud scenarios: bad cheque scams (business loan and debt collection fraud), real estate scams (identity theft and flip value fraud), and employee fraud; and *The Many Faces of Fraud*, a special report on identity and value frauds.
- Recent [LawPro magazine](#) articles on fraud such as [Lawyers as targets of fraud: the common misconceptions](#), September 2009, or [Fraud: claims put pressure on premiums](#) and [Anatomy of a fraud alert](#), June 2009.

Balance

The theme of the latest edition of *Law Practice Today*, [Balance and Wellness](#), applies to a broad range of practice management areas, from job satisfaction to lawyer productivity. For some practical suggestions on how to achieve the right balance in your own life, or to help your employees do the same, take a look at the following articles:

[Achieving Life/Work Balance Through Effective Time Management](#) by Kathleen Brady

[How to Take a Vacation from Your Law Practice](#) by Sheila M. Blackford

[Job Satisfaction: Little Things Lawyers Can Do to Make a Big Difference](#) by Dan Millman

[Law Firm Wellness Programs Offer Help and Support](#) by Colleen Ford Kennedy

Mind Your Smartphone

Smartphones are ubiquitous in the legal and business world, requiring individual lawyers and law firm managers to be alert to the latest innovations, applications and security issues.

The following two articles identify the most useful functions and applications for Blackberry users:

- [Blackberry Apps for Lawyers](#) by Nicole L. Black, published July 30, 2009 on LLRX
- [Blackberry 101: the hidden essentials](#) by Dan Pinnington

In [Smartphones in the workplace: what's your business doing to manage the risk?](#), Brian Bowman raises another area of concern for law office managers: how involved should employers be in regulating and monitoring their employees use of smartphones? He points out that as the storage capacity of smartphones grows so too does the risk of massive security and privacy breaches. At the very least, Bowman suggests, employers should implement relevant guidelines concerning smartphone use in the workplace.

Smartphone etiquette is also a concern, as the Globe and Mail article [Mind your BlackBerry manners, or risk your career](#) points out. The etiquette tips at the end of the article are worth a look.

Keeping on Top of Technology

A number of recent legal blogs address the issue of how best to use and control technology in the legal workplace:

[Law Practice Technology Information Sources and Tools](#) by Ken Strutin, published August 5, 2009 on [LLRX](#)

[Five Things Lawyers Should Know About Social Media](#) by Nicole L. Black, published July 11, 2009 on LLRX

[Internet Marketing: Keeping a Human Presence in a Digital World](#) by Edward Poll, published August 2009 on [CBA Practice Link](#)

[Email Management](#) by David Bilinsky on his blog Thoughtful Legal Management

[Email management tips for lawyers](#) on Legal Ease Blog

[Tips on Using Outlook Tasks to Clear Your Inbox](#) and [E-mail Management: Unsubscribing Works](#) both by Jim Calloway on Law Practice Tips Blog

Publications

The General Practice, Solo and Small Firm Conference newsletter, [General Knowledge](#), published August 2009, contains several articles pertaining to small firm management issues. Among the topics addressed are disaster preparedness, networking and debt in the small firm.

Fall LSM Programs

Register soon for the following practice management related programs presented by the Law Society this fall:

[Frauds, Scams and Stings: Lawyers Beware!](#) - Learn how to deal with the increasing threat of scams targeting lawyers at this lunch program, featuring law enforcement and insurance specialists who know what to do. The program takes place at the Law Society classroom from noon to 1:30 p.m. on September 23, 2009.

The 2009 Isaac Pitblado Lectures looks at the future of law in [Practising Law in the 21st Century: evolution or revolution](#). Keynote speakers include Professor Richard Susskind, OBE, author of *The End of Lawyers? Rethinking the Nature of Legal Services* (reviewed [here](#)), Jordan Furlong, editor of the *National* magazine and Dan Pinnington, practice advisor at LawPRO. The program takes place November 13 & 14, 2009 at the Fort Garry Hotel, Winnipeg.

[Time Mastery for Lawyers](#) - a downloadable teleseminar with Frank Sanitate and Douglas Gillies, presented in three modules November 30, December 7 and 14, 2009.

Law Firm Leadership Conference: CBA

Law firm managers may be interested in attending the fifth annual CBA [Law Firm Leadership Conference](#) on change management, which will be held in Toronto on November 16-17, 2009. Topics include the client engagement model, financing and capital, outsourcing and deconstruction and Web 2.0.

Online CLE: CBA

The Canadian Bar Association is offering several live online continuing legal education programs this fall dealing with practice management topics:

[Social Media and Lawyers](#) - September 30, 2009

[Greening Your Practice](#) - November 5, 2009

[Making the Most of Your Support Staff](#) - December 9, 2009

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