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Annual Trust Account Report Deadlines

Law firms with a December trust year end should have received their Annual Trust Account Report package from the Law Society in early January. Members who elect to file a Self Report must file it on or before February 25, 2010. For those members who are required (or elect) to file a Form D with Accountant's Review, the deadline is April 30, 2010.

Lists

The end of a year (or decade) triggers a natural impulse to reflect on and take stock of the past, thus the flood of year end lists in recent legal publications. From best blogs to biggest blunders, the following lists encapsulate what was good and bad about 2009:

- [2009 CLawBies](#) Canadian Law Blog Awards
- [Third Annual ABA Journal Blawg 100](#)
- [Canada's Best Law Firm Websites](#) December 2009 *National* magazine
- [Decorum in the dock: The top legal follies of 2009](#) Report on Business, *The Globe and Mail*
- [Top Ten Legal Ethics Stories of 2009](#) Legal Ethics Forum Blog
- [Year-End Lists: Legal Hellholes and Devilish Lawyers](#) Law.com
- [2010: My Fifth Annual List Of The Tech Products I Love And Use Every Day](#) by Michael

Supreme Court Notice

In a [Notice to the Profession](#) dated December 2009 the Supreme Court announces its new practice of awarding costs in applications for leave to appeal where leave to appeal is granted. It is now the court's general practice to award costs "in the cause" rather than "in any event of the cause" and counsel should prepare their submissions accordingly.

CanLII

CanLII has made a number of [improvements](#) to its services in recent months, including adding an automatically generated table of contents to all federal statutes and regulations and creating stable links. Recently added materials include the decisions of nine [new tribunals](#) and [legislation](#) from the Northwest Territories, Nunavut and the Yukon.

Law Firm Management Strategies

The following articles on different aspects of law firm management strategies are worth a read:

In [A Different Way to Look at Law Firm Strategy](#) Nicole Garton-Jones summarizes the new strategy framework advocated in [Blue Ocean Strategy: How to Create Uncontested Market Space and Make Competition Irrelevant](#) and details how her firm applied the strategy to create a new online marketplace. It's timely reading for those seeking innovative ways to compete in the evolving legal marketplace.

Evolving is also a theme of the January 2010 edition of [Law Practice Today](#), which is titled *Practical Technologies for Transforming Your Practice*. It contains several articles on why and how technology should be an integral part of legal strategic planning.

Systematic risk management is critical to effective business management as noted in the article [Reducing Your Exposure - Seven steps to a law firm risk management program](#), published in the December 2009 *National* magazine. The article outlines seven key steps to protect your firm from risk exposure and regulatory rules. It also presents the somewhat contrary view of Jordan Furlong, who questions how objective lawyers can be in determining how much risk is tolerable and at what cost.

Winter CPD: LSM

[Trust Accounting: In the Know](#) - this lunch hour program aimed at lawyers and support staff will review the Division 4 - Financial Accountability rules, including accounting systems, restriction of cash rules, client identification and verification and annual trust account reports. Join Law Society auditor Colleen Halpenny at 12:00 noon on February 24, 2010 at the Law Society classroom.

[Accommodation in the Workplace](#) - this half day program will examine current issues on workplace accommodation from a number of perspectives including workplace safety, human rights and discipline issues. It takes place April 14, 2010 from 1:00-4:00 p.m. at the Law Society classroom.

Mid-Winter 2010

It's not too late to register for the Manitoba Bar Association's [2010 Mid-Winter Meeting](#), which takes place January 21-23 at the Fort Garry Hotel. For details on the full-day continuing legal

education programming on January 22 or to register see the brochure or contact the Manitoba Bar Association.

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