

For discussion
on 22 April 2002

LegCo Panel on Administration of Justice and Legal Services

Fidelity Fund

Background

In the Consultation Paper on Legal Services published by the former Attorney General in March 1995, it was noted that the existing Indemnity Fund does not compensate clients for money lost by reason of the fraudulent act of solicitors who are sole practitioners or partners of a firm. Moreover, it compensates clients in respect of a fraud perpetrated by a solicitor's employee only if the solicitor could have prevented the fraud by exercising ordinary care and skill in the management of the practice. The paper considered this position to be unsatisfactory. It recommended that there should be a statutory fidelity fund to protect consumers from the dishonesty of solicitors or their employees, which should be financed by a levy on solicitors.

2. A majority of respondents to the Consultation Paper supported the establishment of such a fidelity fund. As a result, the Report on Legal Services in Hong Kong published by the former Administration in February 1996 stated that legislation would be introduced to implement the recommendation.

3. Since then, there have been further developments. In early 1999, the Law Society informed the Department of Justice that it had established a working party to consider the establishment of a fidelity fund. In the past few years, the decline in property transactions and other economic difficulties have caused financial problems for many solicitors' firms. In 2002, the premium payable by solicitors for insurance in respect of professional negligence rose by 230%.

4. The Department of Justice was recently informed by the Law Society that its Council had discussed the matter in a meeting in March 2002

and it had come to the view that the establishment of a fidelity fund would cause serious financial hardship to a number of law firms if the profession was required to finance the establishment and maintenance of a fidelity fund.

The experience and practice of other jurisdictions

England and Wales

5. The Compensation Fund was first introduced by the Solicitors Act 1941, which came into effect on 16 November 1942. This enabled the Law Society of England and Wales to provide for a scheme of compensation for those who had sustained a loss through the dishonesty of a solicitor in connection with his practice. The Fund is now operated under the Solicitors Act 1974.

6. Under section 36 of the Solicitors Act 1974, the Compensation Fund is a private fund which the Law Society of England and Wales administers and maintains as trustee. The Compensation Fund is maintained by means of an annual contribution payable by every solicitor who takes out a practising certificate. There is an exemption for the first three practising certificates taken out after admission and the contribution is payable at half the normal rate for the subsequent three practising certificates. A table indicating the amount payable by the solicitors is at **Annex I**.

7. The Solicitors' Compensation Fund Rules 1995 provide for the procedure for making grants from the Compensation Fund. The Law Society has also over the years published guidelines concerning the operation of the Compensation Fund.

8. According to figures stated in the Law Society Annual Report 2001, the number of applications made to the Compensation Fund from 1 May 2000 – 30 April 2001 was 3,372. The number of grants made was 1,467 and the value of grants from the Compensation Fund was £16.3 million.

Australia

9. All of the states in Australia maintain fidelity funds. The names adopted for these funds and the amount of contribution to the funds vary among different states. A table of the contribution by lawyers and claims statistics in different states is at **Annex II**.

Australian Capital Territory (“ACT”)

10. The Solicitors’ Fidelity Fund was established under section 132 of the Legal Practitioners Act 1970 of the ACT. The ACT Law Society pays all moneys constituting the fund into an account maintained by it at a bank, credit union or building society and it keeps separate accounts in relation to the moneys constituting the fund.

11. A solicitor shall, not later than 30 June of each year, pay to the Law Society such contribution to the Solicitors’ Fidelity Fund as is fixed by the Council in respect of the period of 12 months commencing on the following 1 July. A solicitor who applies for a practising certificate for a period of less than 12 months would pay to the ACT Law Society a contribution on a pro-rata basis.

12. If at any time the Council of the ACT Law Society considers that the fund is not sufficient to satisfy the liabilities of the ACT Law Society in relation to the fund, the Council may impose a levy on each solicitor who holds an unrestricted practising certificate of such amount as it thinks fit for payment into the fund.

New South Wales

13. The establishment and maintenance of the Solicitors’ Fidelity Fund is provided under section 70 of the Legal Profession Act 1987 of New South Wales. The fund consists of the money which previously made up the Solicitors’ Fidelity Fund maintained under the Legal Practitioners Act 1898. The Solicitors’ Fidelity Fund is administered by the Law Society Council of New South Wales and is kept under a separate account in a bank, building

society or credit union in New South Wales. The Law Society may arrange with an insurer for the insurance of the fund.

14. The Law Society Council is empowered under the Legal Profession Act 1987 to delegate all or any of its functions in relation to the Solicitors' Fidelity Fund to a Management Committee consisting of members of the Council and non-Council members of the Law Society.

15. The amount of a contributions to the fund shall be determined by the Law Society Council and approved by the Attorney General. Such contributions will be made by a solicitor at the time when he applies for the practising certificate.

16. If the Law Society Council is at any time of the opinion that the Solicitors' Fidelity Fund is likely to be insufficient to meet the liabilities to which it is subject, the Council may, by resolution, impose on each solicitor liable to contribute to the fund a levy payable to the Council on account of the fund.

Queensland

17. The Legal Practitioners' Fidelity Guarantee Fund was established under section 12 of the Queensland Law Society Act 1952.

18. The fund is administered by the Council of the Law Society of Queensland. The Council may by resolution delegate its powers in relation to the fund to a committee of management consisting of 3 to 7 persons being members of the Law Society of Queensland, with a majority of such members being Council members.

19. Every practising legal practitioner on making application in any year for a practising certificate would pay such contribution to the fund as may from time to time be prescribed under the rules made by the Council and such sum should not be less than A\$10 nor more than A\$20 in any year.

20. Every legal practitioner who has made 20 annual contributions to

the fund, and in respect of whom no payment from the fund or no reimbursement is made from the fund by or on behalf of such practitioner, shall be freed and discharged from further annual contributions to the fund. The Council may also make payment to a retiring legal practitioner representing the total amount of annual contributions made by the legal practitioner to the fund either with or without simple interest. On the death of any such legal practitioner, the Council has the discretion to make a payment to the legal practitioners' personal representatives or to the legal practitioners' widow or widower or dependant(s).

21. If at any time the fund is not sufficient to satisfy the liabilities, the Council may by resolution require every practising practitioner to pay into the fund a levy of an amount not exceeding A\$20.

22. The Council has the discretion to enter into any contract with any licensed insurer carrying on fidelity insurance business in Queensland for the insurance of the fund.

South Australia

23. The Legal Practitioners' Guarantee Fund was established under section 57 of the Legal Practitioners Act 1981. A prescribed proportion of the fees paid by legal practitioners requiring the issue or renewal of practising certificates would be contributed to the guarantee fund. A prescribed proportion of the fees is paid by interstate practitioners on giving notice of the establishment of an office in South Australia.

24. The Law Society of South Australia may, with the approval of the Attorney-General, insure the fund as the Society thinks fit against claims.

Tasmania

25. The Solicitors' Guarantee Fund was created under the Legal Practitioners Act 1959 and was continued under section 107 of the Legal Profession Act 1993. The Solicitors' Trust was established under section 95 of the Legal Practitioners Act 1959. One of the functions of the Solicitors' Trust

is to administer the Solicitors' Guarantee Fund.

26. The members of the Trust are appointed by the governor and 2 persons are nominated by the Council of the Law Society of Tasmania and are members of the Law Society of Tasmania. One person is nominated by the Attorney General and is a member of the Australian Society of Certified Practising Accountants or the Institute of Chartered Accountants in Australia.

27. The Solicitors' Guarantee Fund is to be maintained at the amount of A\$3.5million or such greater amount as the Minister and the Council of the Law Society may agree.

Victoria

28. The Legal Practitioners' Fidelity Fund was established by the Legal Practice Board under section 388 of the Legal Practice Act 1996. The Legal Practice Board will determine the amount of the contribution to the fund (not exceeding A\$1500 per member or, in the case of a member employed by a community legal centre, not exceeding A\$100 per member) payable in respect of the next practising certificate year by members of the Law Society of Victoria. The amount standing to the credit of the fund must be kept separate from any other money held by the Legal Practice Board and is to be held in trust for its purpose.

29. Holders of practising certificates, interstate practitioners, registered foreign practitioners, and approved clerks must make payment into the fund the contribution determined by the Legal Practice Board in respect of their practising certificate year.

30. If the Legal Practice Board is of the opinion that the amount standing to the credit of the fund is likely to be insufficient to meet the liabilities to which it is subject, the Legal Practice Board may determine the amount of a levy to be paid to the fund by legal practitioners, interstate practitioners, registered foreign practitioners or approved clerks. The amount of the levy may differ for different classes of practitioners and must not exceed A\$1500 per member or, in the case of a member employed by a community legal centre,

A\$100 per member.

31. The Legal Practice Board may enter into a contract with any person or body carrying on fidelity insurance business (whether in or outside Victoria) against liability to pay claims in respect of the fund.

Western Australia

32. The Solicitors' Guarantee Fund was established under section 16 of the Legal Contribution Trust Act 1967 of Western Australia.

33. The Legal Contribution Trust was established under section 5 of the Legal Contribution Trust Act 1967. The Trust consists of 3 trustees appointed by the governor. Two of them are legal practitioners nominated in writing by the Law Society of Western Australia and the Legal Practice Board respectively and one is not a legal practitioner, nominated in writing by the Minister.

34. One of the functions of the Legal Contribution Trust is to administer and control the Solicitors' Guarantee Fund. The Legal Contribution Trust will hold and apply the Solicitors' Guarantee Fund for the purpose of compensating persons who suffer pecuniary loss by reason of professional defalcation.

35. The trust may, from time to time, effect a policy or policies of insurance for the purpose of indemnifying the Solicitors' Guarantee Fund against loss in satisfying claims.

36. Every legal practitioner shall maintain on deposit to the credit of the Legal Contribution Trust an amount that is not less than 70% of the sum of the lowest balance of his trust account(s), occurring on a day during the current relevant period of a financial year or during the last preceding relevant period of a financial year; and the amount standing on deposit by him to the credit of the Trust on the day on which the lowest balance(s), or the lowest sum of the balances occurred.

Northern Territory

37. The Legal Practitioners' Fidelity Fund was established under section 89 of the Legal Practitioners Act of the Northern Territory. The Fidelity Fund Committee, which consists of the Master and two legal practitioners appointed by the Law Society of the Northern Territory, administers the fund.

38. A person who suffers pecuniary loss arising out of a defalcation of trust moneys committed by a legal practitioner may apply to the committee for compensation in respect of that loss.

39. On or before 30 August in each year the Fidelity Fund Committee will determine the amount (if any) of contribution that a legal practitioner, or a member of a class of legal practitioners is required to pay to the fund in respect of the period of 12 months commencing on the next succeeding 1 October. The amount of contribution is not to exceed A\$1,500.

40. A legal practitioner who applies for the issue of a practising certificate has to pay an amount of contribution to the fund as determined by the Committee.

41. If at any time the Committee considers that the amount in the fund is likely to be insufficient to meet the Committee's liabilities in relation to the fund, it may impose a levy (not exceeding A\$500) on each legal practitioner.

42. Where the amount in the fund is greater than A\$1,000,000, the Attorney-General may direct the Fidelity Fund Committee to allocate moneys from the fund to assist in the conduct of a scheme for the provision of legal aid and/or to assist and promote legal education and legal research, on such terms and conditions as the Attorney-General thinks fit. The balance of the fund after an allocation shall be maintained at not less than A\$1,000,000.

New Zealand

43. The Solicitors' Fidelity Guarantee Fund was established under Part

VI of the Law Practitioners Act 1955 and was continued under section 158 of the Law Practitioners Act 1982. In general terms, the fund is held and applied for the purpose of reimbursing persons who may suffer pecuniary loss by reason of theft by a solicitor, but it does not cover most investment/nominee company activity.

44. Every solicitor who is in practice on his or her own account is liable to pay into the Solicitors' Fidelity Guarantee Fund such fees as may from time to time fixed by the New Zealand Law Society Council and such fee would not be less than NZ\$50 in any year.

45. The annual fund fee payable by a solicitor for the year 2002 is NZ\$390.00 + goods and services tax.

46. If the Solicitors' Fidelity Guarantee Fund is, or may be, insufficient to meet its liabilities, the New Zealand Law Society Council, with the consent of the Minister of Justice, may impose a levy on solicitors liable to contribute to the fund. In respect of claims incurred after 30 April 1993 the total amount payable (levy and annual fee combined) cannot exceed NZ\$5,000. The last special fidelity fund levy was imposed in 1992. It was paid by instalments, and payment was completed in 1997.

Canada

47. There are 14 law societies in Canada, one for each of the 10 provinces and one for each of the 3 territories. The province of Quebec has 2 law societies. The Chambre des notaires du Quebec governs the notarial profession within Quebec, while the Barreau du Quebec governs lawyers. The other Canadian provinces and territories are governed by the common law tradition of England. Each law society is administered by a board of directors, generally known as benchers or members of Council.

48. The law societies in Canada maintain compensation funds which are available to compensate clients who suffer a financial loss because of their lawyers' mishandling or theft of trust funds. The names adopted for such funds and the amount of contribution to the compensation funds by lawyers to

the law societies vary among different provinces or territories. A table of the contribution by lawyers and claims statistics in different states is at **Annex III**.

British Columbia

49. A special compensation fund was maintained under Part 3 of the Legal Profession Act. The fund is the property of the Law Society of British Columbia and must be accounted for separately from its other funds.

50. The benchers may pay compensation out of the fund only if they are satisfied that –

- (a) money or other property was entrusted to or was otherwise received by a lawyer in the lawyer’s capacity as a barrister and solicitor;
- (b) the lawyer misappropriated or wrongfully converted the money or other property; and
- (c) a person sustained a pecuniary loss as a result of that misappropriation or wrongful conversion.

Alberta

51. The Law Society of Alberta holds and maintains a fund called the “Assurance Fund” pursuant to section 89 of the Legal Profession Act of Alberta. A Special Compensation Fund Committee consisting of benchers and lawyers is delegated to administer the fund.

52. If a member misappropriates or wrongfully converts money or other property entrusted to or received by a member in the member’s capacity as a barrister and solicitor and in the course of the member’s practice as a barrister and solicitor, a person entitled to the money or other property may submit a claim to the Society for compensation from the Assurance Fund in respect of the money or the value of the property.

53. For the purpose of maintaining and augmenting the Assurance

Fund an annual assessment is levied on all active members of the Law Society of Alberta an amount fixed by the benchers in each case by resolution. The benchers may also direct the levying on them of a special assessment of an amount fixed by the benchers by resolution.

54. The Law Society may enter into contracts with insurers or other persons for the protection of any claim or loss to the Assurance Fund.

Saskatchewan

55. A special fund was created under section 12 of the Legal Profession Act 1990. This fund was created by the levy of an assessment on members of the Law Society of Saskatchewan for the purpose of reimbursing persons who suffer pecuniary loss as a result of a Law Society's member's misappropriation or wrongful conversion of moneys or entrusted property or received by the member in his professional capacity.

56. The fund is the property of the Law Society of Saskatchewan and is not subject to any trust. The Law Society will deposit the fund in an account in a financial institution, separate and apart from all other funds of the Law Society of Saskatchewan.

57. Every member pays to the Law Society of Saskatchewan an annual assessment for the special fund in the amount fixed by the benchers.

58. Where they determine that there are insufficient funds in the special fund to pay the expenses or to reimburse claimants, the benchers may make a special assessment on members of the Law Society of Saskatchewan.

Manitoba

59. Pursuant to section 37 of the Law Society Act of Manitoba, the governing body of the Law Society of Manitoba maintains and administers a special fund for the purpose of reimbursement in whole or in part of persons sustaining pecuniary loss by reason of the inappropriation or conversion, by any member of the Law Society of Manitoba or law corporation practising in

Manitoba or any other Canadian jurisdiction, of money or other property entrusted to, or received by, the member or law corporation in a professional capacity.

60. The special fund is deposited in an account in a bank or loan or trust company, separate and apart from all other funds of the Law Society of Manitoba, and is the property of the Law Society of Manitoba.

61. A levy is imposed on the members of the Law Society of Manitoba entitled to practise in the province.

Upper Canada

62. The Compensation Fund is continued as the Lawyers Fund for Client Compensation pursuant to section 51 of the Law Society Act of Upper Canada. The Law Society of Upper Canada maintains the fund and is holding it in trust for the purpose of compensating a person who suffers loss as a result of the dishonesty of a member of the Law Society of Upper Canada, in connection with such member's law practice provided that there is the existence of a solicitor and client relationship.

63. Every member of the Law Society of Upper Canada shall pay to the Law Society of Upper Canada for the fund a sum as is prescribed from time to time by the by-laws.

64. The Law Society of Upper Canada may insure with any insurer licensed to carry on business in Ontario in relation to the fund.

New Brunswick

65. Under section 81 of the Law Society Act 1996 of New Brunswick, the Council of the Law Society of New Brunswick administers the Compensation Fund for the purpose of reimbursing persons who sustain pecuniary loss as a result of the dishonesty of a member of the Law Society of New Brunswick, or the dishonesty of an agent or servant of a member, when the member is acting as a barrister or solicitor in a solicitor and client relationship.

66. The fund is the property of the Law Society of New Brunswick, and is not subject to a trust in favour of a person who alleges to have sustained a loss. The fund is accounted for separately from the other funds of the Law Society of New Brunswick.

67. A Compensation Fund Committee consisting of not less than three members of the Law Society of New Brunswick is appointed by the Council of the Law Society of New Brunswick to administer the fund.

68. All money constituting the fund, pending investment or payment, is deposited to the credit of a special account of the Law Society of New Brunswick in a chartered bank or trust company authorized by the Council.

Nova Scotia

69. Under section 40 of the Barristers and Solicitors Act of Nova Scotia, the Council of the Nova Scotia Barristers' Society establishes, maintains and administers a fund known as the Reimbursement Fund. The purpose of the fund is to reimburse in whole or in part persons sustaining pecuniary loss by reason of the misappropriation or conversion of money or other property entrusted to or received in his professional capacity by any member of the Nova Scotia Barristers' Society practising in the province.

70. The Reimbursement Fund is kept separate and apart from all other funds of the Nova Scotia Barristers' Society and is the property of the Nova Scotia Barristers' Society.

71. The Council of the Nova Scotia Barristers' Society may from time to time determine that a portion of the fee payable by each practising member of the Nova Scotia Barristers' Society for an annual certificate shall be allocated to and form part of the Reimbursement Fund.

Prince Edward Island

72. Under section 48 of the Legal Profession Act of Prince Edward

Island, the Council of the Law Society of Prince Edward Island created a fund to be known as the Reimbursement Fund for the purpose of reimbursement of persons who sustain a pecuniary loss as a result of the misappropriation or wrongful conversion by a member of money or other property entrusted to or received by the member while acting in the capacity of barrister, solicitor or attorney.

73. The fund is the property of the Law Society of Prince Edward Island and is accounted for separately from the other funds of the Law Society.

74. The Council of the Law Society fixes annually the amount to be paid into the fund by each member, and such amount will be payable at the same time and in the same manner as the admission fees or annual membership fees of the Law Society and will give rise to the same penalties for non-payment as are applicable to non-payment of admission or annual membership fees.

Newfoundland

75. Under section 19 of An Act Respecting The Law Society of Newfoundland, the benchers may maintain and augment by the levy of an annual assessment of the amount fixed by them on members or students of the Law Society of Newfoundland a special fund for the purpose of reimbursement of persons sustaining monetary loss because of the misappropriation or conversion by a member or student practising in the province, of money or other property entrusted to or received by the member or student in his or her professional capacity. The benchers of the Law Society of Newfoundland administers the special fund.

76. The special fund is deposited in an account in a chartered bank or loan or trust company separate and apart from all other funds of the Law Society of Newfoundland and is the property of the Law Society of Newfoundland.

77. The amount of the fund is fixed from time to time by the resolution of benchers. The annual assessment on the members of the Law Society is made by benchers as shall be required to maintain the fund at the fixed amount.

The amount of the fund is reviewed by benchers not less than once every two years.

Yukon

78. A special fund was established, maintained and operated by the Law Society of Yukon under section 45 of the Legal Profession Act of Yukon. The special fund is established for the reimbursement of pecuniary losses sustained by reason of the misappropriation or wrongful conversion by a member of the Law Society of Yukon of property entrusted to or received by him in his capacity as a barrister or solicitor. The executive of the Law Society of Yukon administers the special fund. The executive of the Law Society of Yukon establishes a Special Fund Committee which, in consultation with the executive, maintains, operates and administers the special fund.

79. The special fund is not subject to any trust and is kept separate from the other funds of the Law Society of Yukon.

80. The maximum entitlement of any person to reimbursement out of the fund is C\$500,000 in respect of the same loss.

81. Every member of the Law Society of Yukon pays to the special fund an annual assessment in any amount to be fixed by the executive from year to year. Where special circumstances require, the executive may levy any additional assessment(s) against the membership.

Northwest Territories

82. Under section 34 of the Consolidation of Legal Profession Act of the Northwest Territories, the Law Society of the Northwest Territories maintains and administers a fund called the Assurance Fund. The purpose of the fund is for the reimbursement, in whole or in part at the discretion of the executive of the Law Society of the Northwest Territories, of persons sustaining pecuniary loss by reason of the misappropriation or wrongful conversion by a member of the Law Society of the Northwest Territories of money or other property entrusted to or received by the member in his or her capacity as a

barrister and solicitor, or in such other capacity as the Law Society of the Northwest Territories may designate.

83. The Assurance Fund is kept separate and apart from any other funds of the Law Society of the Northwest Territories and is not subject to any trust. The Law Society of the Northwest Territories may enter into contracts with insurers or other persons by which means the Assurance Fund may be protected in whole or in part against any claim or loss to the fund.

84. An annual assessment will be levied on active members in such amount as may be fixed by the executive from time to time for the purpose of maintaining and augmenting the Assurance Fund.

The Administration's Position

85. The Administration considers that the establishment of a fidelity fund would be one way to protect members of the public from pecuniary loss resulting from fraudulent acts of solicitors.

86. We note that, in many other common law jurisdictions, the legal profession contributes to the establishment and maintenance of fidelity funds either at the time when lawyers apply for their practising certificates or as a levy imposed by the law societies.

87. However, given the present economic climate and the difficulties faced by many members of the Hong Kong legal profession, we take the view that now is not an appropriate time to pursue the setting up of a fidelity fund.

Department of Justice

April 2002

#49841 v2

UK

Local Lawyers

No. of Previous Practising Certificate Held	Held Client's Money	Not held Client's Money
0-3	£0	£0
4-6	£100	£30
7+	£200	£60

Registered Foreign Lawyers

Initial application	£20
Clients money Held (Partner in an MNP) mainly practising INSIDE England and Wales)	£30
Clients money Held (Partner in an MNP) mainly practising OUTSIDE England and Wales)	£20
Non partner/director or do not hold clients money	£0

Registered European Lawyers

No. of Previous Practising Certificate Held	Held Client's Money	Not held Client's Money
0-3	£0	£0

Australia

Jurisdictions	Fidelity Fund Payment	Claims Statistics
Australian Capital Territory	No Information Available	No Statistics Available
New South Wales	A\$645	Contributions from solicitors for the year ending 30 June 2001 : A\$9,368,923 Claims paid : A\$6,219,740
Queensland	Fidelity fund contribution A\$10 Fidelity fund levy A\$75	Contributions by legal practitioners for the year ended 30 April 1998 : A\$177,296 Claims and Investigations : A\$1,745,147
South Australia	No Information Available	No Statistics Available
Tasmania	No Information Available	No Statistics Available
Victoria	<p>The holder of practising certificate that authorises the receipt of trust money who receive, or was a partner or employee of a firm that received trust money including transit cheques exceeding A\$500,000 in total: A\$200</p> <p>The holder of practising certificate that authorises the receipt of trust money who receive, or was a partner or employee of a firm that received trust money including transit cheques of A\$0-A\$500,000 in total: A\$100</p> <p>The holder of a practising certificate that authorises the person to engage in legal practice as an employee but not authorised to receive trust money and is employed by a legal practitioner or firm that is authorised to receive trust money: A\$50</p> <p>Corporate practitioners, sole practitioners not authorised to receive trust money and employees of Community Legal Centres are NOT required to make a contribution.</p>	<p>For the year ended 30 June 2001: fidelity fund claims liability A\$21,300,000 no of claims received in 2000/2001 : 95 liability of claims received in 2000/2001 : A\$4.2M</p>
Western Australia	No Information Available	No Statistics Available
Northern Territory	A\$100	No Statistics Available

Canada

Law Societies	Fidelity Fund Payment	Claims Statistics																								
Law Society of British Columbia	Special Compensation Fund assessment: CA\$200 (in 2001) CA\$250 (in 2002)	Special Compensation Fund Claims paid (1996-2000) : <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>Year</th> <th>CA\$Paid</th> <th>No. of paid claims involved</th> <th>No. of lawyers</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>1996</td> <td>177,870</td> <td>12</td> <td>5</td> </tr> <tr> <td>1997</td> <td>46,595</td> <td>5</td> <td>3</td> </tr> <tr> <td>1998</td> <td>44,061</td> <td>5</td> <td>4</td> </tr> <tr> <td>1999</td> <td>45,692</td> <td>2</td> <td>2</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2000</td> <td>363,022</td> <td>10</td> <td>5</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	Year	CA\$Paid	No. of paid claims involved	No. of lawyers	1996	177,870	12	5	1997	46,595	5	3	1998	44,061	5	4	1999	45,692	2	2	2000	363,022	10	5
Year	CA\$Paid	No. of paid claims involved	No. of lawyers																							
1996	177,870	12	5																							
1997	46,595	5	3																							
1998	44,061	5	4																							
1999	45,692	2	2																							
2000	363,022	10	5																							
Law Society of Alberta	Assurance Fund Levy: CA\$150	For the year ending 31 October 2000 : Total levy received CA\$608,010 Reserve for claims: CA\$804,000																								
Law Society of Saskatchewan	CA\$20	In the year 2000 –2001, contribution to the fund: CA\$129,878 Number of practising lawyers contributing: 1,740 Amount of claims paid out : CA\$49,955																								
Law Society of Manitoba	Reimbursement Fund Assessment: CA\$65	For the year ended 31 March 2001 : Amount of claims paid out CA\$49,955 Total contribution to the fund: CA\$129,878																								
Law Society of Upper Canada	Compensation Fund levy: CA\$290 (in 2001)	For the year 2000 : Total number of claims: 261 Total claims paid 4,568,491 Deficit of the fund: CA\$3.1m																								
Law Society of New Brunswick	CA\$50	No Statistics Available																								
Nova Scotia Barristers' Society	Assessment for the Reimbursement Fund: CA\$1	For the year ending May 2000 : Claims paid from the fund: CA\$1000 Fund reserve: CA\$1,828,396																								
Barreau de Quebec	CA\$25	No Statistics Available																								
Chambre de Notaires du Quebec	CA\$240	No Statistics Available																								

Law Society of Prince Edward Island	CA\$100 (practising) CA\$50 (non-practising)	No Statistics Available
Law Society of Newfoundland	CA\$52	No Statistics Available
Law Society of Yukon	No Statistics Available	No Statistics Available
Law Society of Northwest Territories	Assurance Fund Levy: CA\$ 125	No Statistics Available

#50136