Law Firm Risk Management by the Numbers—And How to Avoid Becoming a Statistic

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Oregon State Bar Center

Peter R. Jarvis
Hinshaw & Culbertson LLP
pjarvis@hinshawlaw.com
503.243.3243
www.hinshawlaw.com

Mark J. Fucile
Fucile & Reising LLP
mark@frllp.com
503.224.4895
www.frllp.com
Program Overview

Part 1:
Risk Management Statistics

Part 2:
How to Avoid Becoming a Statistic
Program Materials

PLF Annual Report

ODC Annual Report
What Statistics Are Available?

Oregon

- PLF Annual Reports
  www.osbplf.org

- ODC Annual Reports
  www.osbar.org
What Statistics Are Available?

National

► ABA Profile of Malpractice Claims
  www.abanet.org

► ABA Annual Disciplinary Survey
  www.abanet.org/cpr
Why the Oregon Statistics Are Especially Instructive (Beyond “We’re Here”….)

► **Claims:** Mandatory coverage equates with very comprehensive statistics

► **Complaints:** Covers all lawyers
What Do the Statistics Tell Us?

Claims

- Overall trends
- By practice area
- By frequency and severity
Looking at the Oregon Claim Statistics

Handout:
PLF Annual Report
What Do the Statistics Tell Us?

Disciplinary Complaints

- Overall trends
- By practice area
- Who are the complainants?
Looking at the Oregon Disciplinary Statistics

Handout:
ODC Annual Report
What Can We Learn from the Statistics?

Firms with “Consumer” Practices

➤ Lawyer-client communications

➤ Setting realistic objectives

➤ Case management
What Can We Learn from the Statistics?

*Firms with Business Practices*

- Law firm internal peer review
- Client selection and intake
- Case management
What Can We Learn from the Statistics?

*Good Medicine for All*

- Using engagement agreements to define clients and scope
- Conflict risks and conflict management
- Setting, billing and collecting fees
Other Resources

► The Ethical Oregon Lawyer

► OSB Formal Ethics Opinions
  www.osbar.org

► PLF Practice Materials
  www.osbplf.org

► ABA Center for Professional Responsibility
  www.abanet.org/cpr