

Message from the CEO

As we begin 2019, we are excited to successfully complete our second year having a fully paperless assessment and exemption process with the lowest assessment since 2011. For the first time, we also fully automated the excess application and binding of coverage process.

I am often asked how a lawyer should determine whether to obtain excess coverage. Quite simply: look at your files. If you are involved in litigation in which the prayer in any case is at or near \$300,000, then the answer is yes. If you are involved in transactions in which the potential loss to your client is at or near \$300,000, the answer is yes. Even if the answer to those questions is no, remember that the \$300,000 mandatory limit is in the aggregate for the entire year. Mistakes happen. Even when the lawyer does not make a mistake, losses are difficult for clients to absorb, and they often look to their lawyers as responsible. While the mandatory PLF

coverage includes a \$50,000 expense allowance, if that is exhausted, the \$300,000 limit begins to erode. Lawyers often tell me that the cost of excess coverage, either through the PLF or on the commercial market, is far cheaper than they expected. I urge you to consider whether you or your firm is adequately protected.

2019 also marked the first year in which lawyers will need to comply with Oregon's new Mental Health and Substance Use one-hour MCLE requirement. The OAAP, the PLF, and the Oregon State Bar partnered to present a free CLE on January 9, 2019. That CLE is available on the Bar's website. If we all help to take the stigma out of mental health impairment and care, then more lawyers may seek and get the help they need. The PLF has additional CLEs on its website that also qualify for the new MCLE category. I urge you to review these and all the other resources available to you.