Law

This section provides research and best practices in order to resolve or aid in resolving legal questions. The contents vary greatly.

Legal research

Research is tedious if not animated by some curiosity. In the main, the root of problems evoke curiosity–if the problem is approached with an open mind.

Research should comprise three principal sources:

1. The firm's precedents;
2. Statute law, including regulations; and
3. Case law.

These sources are ranked for the order in which they should be consulted.

Use the firm's institutional knowledge to shorten research time. This wiki is one source for that knowledge. You may also speak with others about the legal question. Those who have been at the firm should, when the opportunity presents itself, offer guidance for precedents in matter files. When in doubt, spend a few minutes browsing the matter files.

Statute law is an under-appreciated resource that increasingly requires special attention. Some trivia may illustrate the point: Ontario (and most other Canadan provinces) have long enshrined freedom of religion and worship in the province's constitution. Witness the *Religious Freedom Act* (https://www.ontario.ca/laws/statute/90r22):

> The free exercise and enjoyment of religious profession and worship, without discrimination or preference, provided the same be not made an excuse for acts of licentiousness, or a justification of practices inconsistent with the peace and safety of the Province, is by the constitution and laws of this Province assured to all Her Majesty’s subjects within the same.

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