

# PRACTICE MANAGEMENT SOFTWARE PACKAGES

Choosing the right technology is one of the most important decisions a lawyer will ever make. It impacts how you deal with your clients, the type of work you do and how you manage your workload so you can go home at night.

To help you choose the option that is right for you, we compared the main features and costs of some of the top practice management packages currently on the market. To focus our inquiry, we only looked at those packages that the Law Society of Alberta's Trust Safety Department has confirmed meet its trust safety filing requirements.

In creating this side-by-side comparison, our goal is to place the choices on a level playing field and give you a starting point to choose the optimal product for your needs.

The prices and feature noted are based on the best available information, are current as of the date of publication and are subject to change by the vendors.

Before making any purchase decision, you should reach out to the vendors or your IT consultant.

We're also happy to answer any questions you may have. Please feel free to contact us at [practice.management@lawsociety.ab.ca](mailto:practice.management@lawsociety.ab.ca) at any time.



	ABACUSLAW	ACUMIN	ADERANT EXPERT EXPERT SIERRA	BRIEF LEGAL	CLIO	COSMOLEX	ELITE PROLAW ELITE 3E	ESILAW	GHOSTPRACTICE	PCLAW
<b>BEST FOR</b>	Any size	20+	Aderant Expert – smaller firms – min 20 users Expert Sierra – medium – 100+ lawyers	Small/medium	Any size	Any size	Prolaw – small 3E – 40+ lawyers	Any size	5-200 users	Any size
<b>OS</b>	Windows or Cloud Requires Windows for 2+ users	Windows	Aderant Expert – Windows Expert Sierra – cloud	Mac & Windows Timekeeping app - cloud	Cloud	Cloud	Prolaw – Windows or cloud 3E – cloud	Windows	Windows	Windows
<b>UNIQUE FEATURES</b>	Great email integration			Integrated billing & accounting package with a focus on Mac users	End-to-end, integrated client intake & practice management package. 150+ integrations. Great 24/5 customer support. Free data migration, on-boarding & 1:1 training	Integrated practice management, billing, general and trust accounting. No QuickBooks required. Free 1:1 training & setup.		Legacy product. Familiar to bookkeepers.	Complementary onboarding & data transition services	Legacy product. Familiar to bookkeepers. Restrict General Retainers. Customizable invoices and user security.
<b>SERVER LOCATION</b>	Canada, US & UK User choice of Canadian server	US	Aderant Expert – Desktop Expert Sierra – US	Desktop Timekeeping app – US	User choice of Canadian or US servers	Canadian users – Canada US users – US	Prolaw – desktop or cloud 3E – cloud	Desktop or Canadian server	Canada	Desktop



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COST (USD UNLESS SPECIFIED)	Not provided. Contact sales rep for pricing.	\$995/one-time/user	Not provided. Contact sales rep for pricing.	\$49/mo/1st user. \$25/mo/additional users	\$39-99/user/mo Suite including Clio Grow - \$90/user/mo Does not include Quickbooks or Zero subscription	\$69/user/mo	Not provided. Contact sales rep for pricing.	Desktop: C\$69/user/mo Cloud: C\$89/user/mo	C\$50/user/mo subject to \$500/mo minimum	Initial software purchase C\$1,299 for 1st user (Includes 1st year maintenance) Annual maintenance fee after initial purchase \$499 for 1st user
DISCOUNTS					Lawpay monthly fees covered by Clio. 10% discount to LSA members	Lawpay monthly fees covered by CosmoLex. Free login for external book-keeper or accountant		Volume license pricing available		
CONTRACT TERM	36 mo.	N/A. User purchases software licence	Not provided	None	Monthly or annual	Monthly or annual	Not provided	Monthly or annual	1 yr.	N/A. User purchases software licence
CANCELLATION & NOTICE OF TERMINATION REQUIREMENTS	End of subscription only	N/A	Not provided	1 mo.	30 days. Self-serve plan downgrade at any time.	Any time	Not provided	30 days	60 days	N/A
DATA PRESERVED FOLLOWING TERMINATION	Desktop - user owns the data Cloud - 30 days	N/A	Not provided	User retains data with read-only version of application	90 days	30 days	Not provided	Desktop - N/A Cloud - 90 days	User owns the data	User retains ownership of software and access to data
BACKUP	Utility available within application	User responsible for backups	Aderant Expert - User responsible for backups Expert Sierra - not provided	User responsible for backups	Performed daily to multiple locations plus optional weekly backup to Amazon S3 storage	Performed continuously to multiple Canada-based locations	Not provided	Desktop - User responsible for backups Cloud - integrated backup with downloadable backups	User responsible for backups. Automated feature within.	User responsible for backups
ARE BACKUPS RETAINED?	Desktop - user controlled Cloud - 1 mo.	N/A	Aderant Expert - user controlled Expert Sierra - not provided	User controlled	Not provided	14 days	Not provided	Desktop - N/A Cloud - 90 days	User controlled	User controlled
ENCRYPTION	AES 256-bit encryption	User responsible for security	Aderant Expert - User responsible for security Expert Sierra - GDPR compliant	User responsible for security Timekeeping app - 128-bit SSL and Oauth 2.0 authentication	256-bit SSL in-transit & at-rest encryption, SSAE 16 2-factor authentication Daily malware scans by McAfee Secure, GDPR compliant	256-bit SSL in-transit & at-rest encryption. 2-factor authentication	3E - 'Industry leading Microsoft security'	Desktop - User responsible for security Cloud -256-bit SSL in transit & at-rest encryption, SHA2 2-factor authentication	User responsible for security	User responsible for security
LONGEST OUTAGE SERVICE HAS EXPERIENCED	N/A	Not provided	Not provided	None	Not provided. 99.9% uptime Service Level Agreement	20 minutes	Not provided	None	None	User controlled
MOBILE APP	iOS, Android	No	No	Yes for timekeeping. Web-based	iOS, Android	iOS, Android	iOS, Android	No	iOS, Android	PCLaw Mobility Web Service to access Contacts, Matters, Time, Expense, Calendar



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EMAIL INTEGRATION	Outlook	Outlook	Aderant Expert – Outlook, iCalendar Expert Sierra-Exchange, Office 365	No	Outlook, Google	Outlook, Google, Yahoo Mail, Apple Mail	Outlook	No	Outlook	Outlook (not all versions)
CALENDAR INTEGRATION	Outlook	Yes	Not provided	No	Outlook, Google	Bi-directional with Office 365 & Google	Outlook	No	Outlook	Outlook (not all versions)
OTHER INTEGRATION	DisplaySoft, DoubleTime, Equitrac, Fonality, InfusionSoft, LandTech, Nextiva, Papercut, Salesforce, Uniflow, Word	Android, Blackberry, iPhone	Not provided	Multiple copy tracking services (Docketman, Equitrac, PaperCut etc.)	Casetext, Chrometa, Dealcloser, Docusign, Lawmatics, Netdocuments, Podium, Scansnap, Smith.ai, Wordpress, Zapier & hundreds more	Box, Chrometa, Copy tracking (Copittrak, Equitrac, PaperCut etc.), The Conveyancer, Drive, Dropbox Google, OneDrive, RealiWeb/LawyersDoneDeal, Unity & more	Office, Westlaw	Dropbox, Google Drive, OneDrive,	ACL5, The Conveyancer, Copittrak & most other cost recovery systems, LEDES eBilling, Office	Word (not all versions)
ONLINE PAYMENT	APX Abacus Payment	Not provided	Not provided	No	Clio Payments, powered by LawPay	CosmoPay, powered by LawPay	Yes	Need Axia Merchant	No	Integrates with OpenEdge for client payments
CLIENT MGT	Yes	Yes	Some	Full integration with Clio Grow	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
CLIENT PORTAL	Yes	Yes	Not provided	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	No	No
DOCUMENT MGT	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	Yes, including Full Text Search	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
CUSTOM WORKFLOWS	Yes	Yes	Expert – Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	Ability to create Custom tabs and fields
TIME & BILLING	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
CONFLICT CHECKING	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
MULTIPLE CURRENCIES	No	Yes	Not provided	No	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes	Yes
FULL ACCTG	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No. Requires Quickbooks or Xero	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
TRUST ACCTG	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes, but Requires Quickbooks or Xero	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
COMPANY CONTACT INFO	Abacus Data Systems Canada Inc. 1 Yonge St. Toronto ON M5E 1W7 www.abacusnext.com PH: 800-726-3339 EM: support@abacusnext.com	Dexco Corp. 980 St. Antoine St. W. Montreal QC H3C 1A8 www.Dexco.com PH: 800-349-7371 EM: info@dexco.com	Aderant Holdings Inc. The Pointe 500 Northridge Rd., Suite 800 Atlanta GA 30350 www.aderant.com PH: 877-608-4369 EM: info@aderant.com	Brief Legal Software Inc. 83N Renfrew St. Vancouver BC V5K 3N4 www.brieflegal.com PH: 604-629-0928 EM: support@brieflegal.com	Themis Solutions Inc. 1940, 150-9th Avenue SW Calgary AB T2P 3H9 www.clio.com PH: 888-858-2546 EM: support@clio.com	Cosmolex Cloud LLC 1100 Cornwall Road, Suite 215 Monmouth NJ www.cosmolex.ca PH: 866-878-6798 EM: information@cosmolex.com	Thomson Reuters 4401 Masthead NE, Suite 200 Albuquerque NM 87109-4493 www.elite.com PH: 888-877-6529 EM: elitecustomer.careteam@thomsonreuters.com	ESI Software Inc. 200, 890 W. Pender St. Vancouver BC V6C 1J9 www.esilaw.com PH: 800-663-4545 EM: sales@esilaw.com	GhostPractice Inc. #1200, 8 King St. E. Toronto ON M5C 1B5 www.ghostpractice.com PH: 800-340-3234 EM: info@ghostpractice.com	PCLaw Time Matters 111 Gordon Baker Road, Suite 900 Toronto ON M2H 3R1 www.pclaw.ca PH: 800-328-2898 EM: pmsales@lexisnexis.ca