Advances in applying avalanche hazard analysis and defense techniques and in resolving constitutional due process and compensation issues permit avalanche zoning to play an important role in avalanche protection. Further progress depends upon collaboration between science and law and refinement of avalanche zoning processes.

Collaboration between science and law occurs when avalanche advisers and legal advisers jointly assist participants in avalanche zoning processes. Avalanche zoning processes include, for local governments, drafting, adopting, enforcing, and defending avalanche control ordinances, and for land developers, evaluating, opposing, satisfying, or challenging such ordinances.

Avalanche advisers and legal advisers have essential roles in each of the avalanche zoning processes. Avalanche advisers apply expertise in avalanche hazard analysis and mapping and in avalanche defense design and construction. Legal advisers address the due process issue (whether the means adopted reasonably relate to the ends sought), the compensation issue (whether a restriction imposed amounts to a taking of property), and the vested rights issue (whether a non-conforming use or a prospective use can be continued).

Some states have adopted legislation requiring local governments to adopt zoning ordinances and to determine natural hazard areas. One state by judicial decision has implied that having determined an avalanche hazard area the local government has a duty to warn of its existence. One local government has placed signs at the area boundaries and notices in the property records.

The evolving state of the art is from the negative concept of hazard avoidance to the positive one of protective measures. The evolving state of the law is from the rigid concept of building restrictions to the flexible one of performance standards. If the law's performance standards encourage the art's protective measures, then a productive balance is achieved between the public interests of security from the risk of avalanche and efficiency in the use of land.