



**EAGLE INTERNATIONAL  
ASSOCIATES, INC.**  
*Presents*

## **AVOIDING THE BLUES IN CHICAGO** Successfully Resolving Claims And Escaping the Muddy Waters of Litigation

**May 15, 2015**  
**CHICAGO**

**HOTEL RESERVATION DUE BY APRIL 10<sup>TH</sup>**  
**SEMINAR REGISTRATION DUE BY MAY 6<sup>TH</sup>**

### VENUE:

The Thompson Hotel  
21 E. Bellevue Place  
Chicago, IL 60611  
312-266-2100  
[www.thompsonhotels.com](http://www.thompsonhotels.com)

**CONFERENCE FEE:** Complimentary to Guests

### HOTEL ROOM RESERVATIONS:

Hotel room reservations made through Terri Napolitani, not with the hotel. Payment will be made by presenting a credit card at check-in. Please complete the Guest Registration Form for Hotel Reservations.

Room Rate: \$309  
Check In: 3PM  
Check Out: 12PM

### Following the Seminar, Please Join Us for a Reception and Lunch

Adjuster Continuing Education Credits are pending for Florida and Texas.  
Legal Continuing Education Credits are pending for Illinois and Wisconsin.

*Eagle International Associates, Inc. is an international network of independent law firms, adjusters and claims related service providers throughout the United States and Europe.*

*The membership of Eagle International Associates, Inc. is committed to diversity and inclusion in all endeavors of the organization. A statement of Eagle's diversity policy is set forth on our website at [www.eagle-law.com](http://www.eagle-law.com).*

For more information, please contact Terri Napolitani at  
[terri.napolitani@eagle-law.com](mailto:terri.napolitani@eagle-law.com) (702-221-1399)

Industry leaders and experts and experienced defense counsel will explore ways in which claims can be successfully resolved, even when challenged by legal, coverage and practical problems. Key issues discussed include: ethical conduct in negotiation and mediation, dealing with professionals as insureds and effectively navigating reservations of rights and conflicts of interest. We will look particularly at how recognizing and satisfying ethical and professional obligations can provide a roadmap to success and harmony and help us escape the muddy waters of conflict and the blues.

### PROGRAM

- 8:00 am **Continental Breakfast**
- 8:30 am **Welcome**  
Jeffrey V. Hill, Esq., Hill & Lamb LLP – Chair, Eagle International Associates (OR/WA)
- Program Introduction**  
Mitchell A. Orpett, Esq., Tribler Orpett & Meyer, P.C., Program Chair (IL)
- 8:45 am **Better Living (and Results) on the High Road: Ethics in Social Media Discovery and Negotiations**  
Co-Moderators: David A. Abrams, Esq., Strongin Rothman & Abrams (NY/NJ)  
John M. D'Amelio, Jr., Esq., Harvey Pennington, Ltd. (PA)
- Panelists:  
Sarah Abrams, Esq., Senior Claims Examiner, Markel  
Donna C. Asta, J.D., Claims Specialist, Assistant Vice President, Westport Insurance Corporation  
John M. D'Amelio, Jr., Esq., Harvey Pennington, Ltd. (PA)  
Judy Frymark, Senior Complex Casualty Claims Examiner, Church Mutual Insurance Company
- 9:45 am **Coverage and Defense Concerns with Reservations of Rights and Eroding Limits Policies**  
Co-Moderators: Jeffrey V. Hill, Esq., Hill & Lamb LLP (OR/WA)  
Peter M. Waldeck, Esq., Waldeck Law Firm (MN/WI)
- Panelists:  
Joseph M. Goldberg, Assistant Vice President, Assistant General Counsel, Sentry Insurance  
Michael Otworth, Vice President, Claims, General Star  
Rohini Palit, Esq., Executive Claims Examiner, Markel  
Brad Temple, Claims Manager and Senior Attorney, West Bend Mutual Insurance Company
- 10:55 am **Break**
- 11:15 am **More Heat in the Hothouse: The Professional as a Client and Insured**  
Co-Moderators: Daniel J. Ripper, Esq., Luther-Anderson PLLP (TN)  
Marc A. Sheiness, Esq., Sheiness Glover & Grossman LLP (TX)
- Panelists:  
Douglas C. Crone, Esq., Claims Consultant, CNA Pro Claims  
Kobi L. Gibbs, Esq., Claims Attorney, ALPS Property & Casualty Insurance Company  
Paul Poppish, Vice President of Claims, AmTrust North America  
Christopher J. Ziemba, Chief Claims Officer, Euclid Specialty Managers
- 12:30 pm **If You Don't Know Me By Now: What Risk Managers Expect from Their Insurers and Counsel**  
Moderated By: Shea Conley, Esq., Reminger Co. LPA (KY)
- Panelists:  
Ari B. Kirshner, Associate General Counsel, NuCare Services Corporation  
Heather Maher, Senior Director of Risk Management and Claims Counsel, Ralph Lauren
- 1:00 pm **Program End followed by a Short Reception**
- 1:30 to 3:00 pm **Luncheon**
- 6:00 to 7:00 pm **Cocktail Reception**

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**David A. Abrams** is a founding member of Strongin Rothman & Abrams, LLP with offices in Livingston, NJ and New York, NY. David has been admitted to practice law in New York since 1986 and in New Jersey since 1988 and is also admitted in the federal courts in those jurisdictions. Mr. Abrams has over twenty five years of civil litigation experience, including significant trial experience in the State and Federal Courts of New York and New Jersey. Areas of concentration include hospitality industry litigation, premises and premises security liability, sports and recreational injury litigation, insurance coverage, construction site accidents, transportation/trucking, products liability, professional liability and commercial litigation. Since 1996, Mr. Abrams has served as national coordinating counsel for Club Mediterranee, S.A.'s insured litigation in the United States, a position he proposed, developed, and implemented. He is a former Chairman and a member of the Board of Directors of Eagle International Associates, Inc. Mr. Abrams is a contributing author to the legal treatise Products Liability in New York, Chapter 8, "Defending the Design Defect Case: Strategic Considerations," published by the New York State Bar Association in 1997. Additionally, Mr. Abrams has lectured on a variety of civil litigation topics at Bar Association seminars and before professional organizations. He received his Juris Doctor from Hofstra University School of Law in June 1985, where he graduated "with distinction" (top 10%). He graduated from the State University of New York at Binghamton with a BA in June 1979.

**Sarah Abrams** is an attorney and Senior Claims Examiner in the Global Management Liability group at Markel's offices located in Deerfield, Illinois, just outside of Chicago. Ms. Abrams is responsible for handling primarily Director's and Officer's primary and excess liability claims as well as Employment Practices liability matters. During her tenure at Markel, Ms. Abrams has handled a wide array of professional liability product line claims, including Information Technology and Data Breach Liability, Insurance Agents & Brokers, Miscellaneous Errors & Omissions, Lawyers, Accountants and Senior Living claims. Prior to joining Markel, Ms. Abrams was an insurance coverage and defense attorney in private practice, representing clients across the country. She received her Bachelor's degree from Duke University in Durham, North Carolina, and her law degree from Chicago-Kent College of Law, in Chicago, Illinois. Ms. Abrams has written and published articles in various insurance coverage and defense journals. She enjoys spending time with her family, participating in triathlons and traveling internationally.

**Donna C. Asta** has been a Claims Specialist for 11 years for Westport Insurance Corporation, a Swiss Re entity. Donna handles lawyers and insurance agents professional liability claims. Prior to becoming a claims specialist, Donna was a defense litigator in Chicago. She handled personal injury and tort matters primarily in medical malpractice, construction, auto, and product liability matters. Donna received her law degree from Valparaiso University and her bachelor's degree from the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign.

**Shea Conley** is Managing Partner of Reminger Co., LPA's Lexington, Kentucky office. Since his admission to the Kentucky Bar in 1998, Shea has developed significant experience defending and trying cases on behalf of product manufacturers, construction companies, attorneys, architects and engineers, transportation companies, premises owners and primary and excess insurers in catastrophic injury and wrongful death cases. Shea has a mechanical engineering degree which makes him particularly well-suited for complex products liability, construction defect and architect and engineering malpractice litigation. Shea has also defended various public and private employers in discrimination, retaliation and wrongful discharge claims in both state and federal court.

**Douglas Crone** is a Claims Consultant with CNA's Lawyers Professional Liability Program, and has been with CNA since 2009. Doug previously practiced with the firm Tribler Orpett & Meyer, P.C. in Chicago, where he was a litigator. His practice included defense of professional liability cases, commercial litigation, appeals, insurance defense, and a variety of insurance-related matters. Doug received his B.A. from the University of Illinois, and his J.D. from Northwestern University. He is licensed to practice law in the states of Illinois and Texas.

**John M. D'Amelio Jr.** is an attorney with the law firm of Harvey Pennington, Ltd., based in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. Harvey Pennington is a full service firm that has been serving regional clients with a strong reputation throughout Pennsylvania for over 40 years. Mr. D'Amelio is a graduate of Lafayette College and Villanova University School of Law. Mr. D'Amelio has over 10 years of experience as a civil litigation attorney practicing in all levels of state and federal courts in both Pennsylvania and New Jersey. Since 2008, Mr. D'Amelio has been recognized as a rising star in the Pennsylvania edition of Thomson Reuters'

"Super Lawyers" magazine, based on his history obtaining favorable judgments in major jury trials and cost-effective settlements in hundreds of litigation cases. Mr. D'Amelio is a resident of Phoenixville, Pennsylvania with his wife Kathleen and is an avid Philadelphia sports fan.

**Judy A. Frymark**, AIC is a Senior Complex Casualty Claims Examiner - Sexual Misconduct Specialist with Church Mutual Insurance Company based in Merrill, WI. Church Mutual is the largest insurer of religious institutions in the United States. Judy has been with the company for 19 years and is a specialist in the field of sexual misconduct. She handles sexual misconduct/molestation claims involving churches, schools, camps, child-care and assisted living facilities across the country. She is also actively involved in training and risk management programs in the area of sexual misconduct and professional liability at Church Mutual.

**Kobi L. Gibbs** is a Claims Attorney with ALPS Property & Casualty Insurance Company in Missoula, Montana. Ms. Gibbs received her Bachelor of Science degree with Honors in Economics from Montana State University-Bozeman prior to receiving her Juris Doctorate and Certificate in Alternative Dispute Resolution from Willamette University College of Law in Salem, Oregon. While in private practice, Ms. Gibbs focused on tax and estate planning and business transactional work before switching to trial work handling felony criminal cases at the Yellowstone County Public Defender's Office in Billings, Montana. In 2004, Ms. Gibbs returned to Missoula and joined ALPS as a Claims Attorney. In addition to resolving claims for ALPS, Ms. Gibbs has conducted extensive risk management visits around the country assisting firms with practical solutions to help minimize their risk for incurring future malpractice claims.

**Joseph M. Goldberg** is an Assistant Vice President and Assistant General Counsel of Sentry Insurance in Stevens Point, WI. His responsibilities include managing the Corporate Legal Department and advising the Claims Department on conflicts of interest and extra contractual exposures. He graduated with a BA from the University of Michigan in 1969, and from law school at the University of Minnesota in 1974. For the following 19 years, Mr. Goldberg litigated insurance defense and coverage matters in private practice in Minneapolis, MN. He joined Sentry Insurance in 1993.

Mr. Goldberg has frequently been on the faculty of continuing legal education presentations dealing with insurance defense and coverage, as well as conflicts of interest amongst insurers, insureds and counsel. He also regularly presents training on defense and coverage issues to Sentry's senior Claim Representatives. Many of Mr. Goldberg's presentations have dealt with the issues presented when a reservation of rights letter has been issued and when there are eroding limits of coverage.

**Jeffrey V. Hill** is a partner at Hill & Lamb LLP an insurance and trial practice law firm in Portland, Oregon. He is a thirty year plus trial lawyer who concentrates his practice in Oregon and Washington in the areas of complex insurance coverage and bad faith as well as defense of professional, fire, environmental and financial liability claims. Jeff received his undergraduate degree in economics from Washington State University in 1978 and his law degree from the University of Puget Sound in 1981. He is admitted to practice in all courts of the states of Oregon and Washington. He is a member of the Oregon Association of Defense Counsel, The International Association of Defense Counsel, Defense Research Institute, The CLM and is a frequent contributor to insurance and trial related presentations throughout the United States and Europe.

**Ari Kirshner** joined the Symphony Post Acute Network in 2012 after working at a noted Chicago law firm representing plaintiffs in personal injury and medical malpractice cases. He is involved in the clinical risk management and quality assurance consulting for the member facilities. Mr. Kirshner co-manages the Network's professional liability insurance programs. Since joining, Ari formed and manages the Network's in-house litigation practice group. Ari sits on the Board of Directors of, and assists in running, a captive insurance company to reduce costs associated with professional and general liability insurance. Ari received his Juris Doctorate degree from Chicago-Kent College of Law. Mr. Kirshner is also a Licensed Nursing Home Administrator.

**Heather Maher** is the Senior Director of Risk Management and Claims Counsel for Ralph Lauren Corporation in New Jersey, where she has global responsibility for the Risk Management, Insurance and Litigation/Claims functions. Prior to joining Ralph Lauren Corporation, Heather was the Vice President of Risk Management and Litigation Counsel for Borden Dairy Company, based in Dallas, Texas. Borden Dairy Company processes and distributes fluid milk and cultured dairy products throughout the United States.

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Heather was responsible for managing the Company's litigation, including transportation, premises, product liability, and commercial litigation. Heather also managed a team of in-house claims adjusters. Heather began her career managing Jones Act and other maritime and transportation claims for Kirby Corporation in Houston, Texas.

Heather has a BS from Texas A&M University and a J.D. from South Texas College of Law. Heather is an active member of the State Bar of Texas, the Federation of Defense and Corporate Counsel, Counsel for Litigation Management, DRI, and RIMS. She is also a member of the State Bar of Texas committee for Women in the Profession. Heather has presented on several occasions on general liability matters, the relationship between outside and in-house counsel, and diversity.

**Mitch Orpett** is Eagle's attorney representative for the State of Illinois. Mitch is a founding member and former managing director of Tribler Orpett & Meyer, P.C., a Chicago law firm serving the insurance and business communities. He was one of six lawyers who formed the firm in 1984. His practice is devoted primarily to the defense of various professional claims and to the resolution of insurance and reinsurance disputes. He has been active in litigation, arbitration and other methods of alternative dispute resolution and has served both as advocate and arbitrator.

Mitch has devoted more than 35 years of service to the profession. He recently completed his three-year term on the ABA's Board of Governors, as well as its Finance and Audit Committees after serving for many years on its policy-making body, the House of Delegates. Previously, he served as chair of the ABA's 30,000 member Tort Trial and Insurance Practice Section and of the ABA's Standing Committee on Continuing Education of the Bar. He was also vice chair of the ABA's Presidential Commission on the Unintended Consequences of the Billable Hour which was chaired by United States Supreme Court Justice Stephen G. Breyer.

Mitch has been listed in all editions of *Guide to the World's Leading Insurance and Reinsurance Lawyers* and in *Who's Who Legal, Insurance & Reinsurance*. He has also been named as an Illinois "Super Lawyer" and to the Illinois Network of Leading Lawyers, in recognition of his work as an insurance and reinsurance lawyer.

**Michael Otworth** is a Vice President and Senior Unit Manager for General Star Underwriting Management Company. Mike has been a frequent speaker at various industry conferences and has authored articles on claim related topics. Mr. Otworth has a Bachelors of Business Administration from Ohio University and a Masters of Business Administration from the University of New Haven. He completed his CPCU in 1995 and also holds the ARM and ASLI designations.

**Rohini Palit** is an attorney and Executive Claims Examiner for Products Liability Claims at Markel in Deerfield, Illinois, just outside of Chicago. Ms. Palit joined Markel in 2007 as a Senior Claims Attorney, and, thereafter, assumed the role of an Executive Claims Examiner. Ms. Palit began her career at Markel overseeing a wide array of professional liability product lines, which included, over the years, Lawyers, Insurance Agents & Brokers, Architects & Engineers, Miscellaneous Errors & Omissions and Employment Practices Liability. Ms. Palit is presently focused on Products Liability Claims.

Prior to joining Markel, Ms. Palit was in private practice as an attorney, and represented clients in professional liability, insurance coverage and other matters in jury and non-jury cases in state and federal court in Illinois. In addition, Ms. Palit has worked for other professional liability insurers on various professional liability product lines, including Lawyers, Accountants, Architects & Engineers, Securities, Directors and Officers, Public Entities, Non-Profit Directors and Officers, Long Term Care, Medical Malpractice and Trade Credit Insurance. She is a member of the Illinois State Bar and received both her B.A. and J.D. from the University of Illinois.

**Paul Poppish** is an insurance professional with over 37 years of claims experience. He has extensive experience in claim operations and management in the areas of Products, Construction exposures, Architect & Engineers, Professional Liability, Financial Institution D&O and E&O, E & S and Public Entity. He has held senior claim officer positions involving latent claims, Heavy Trucking & Transportation, Surety, Customs Bonds and Construction exposure. Paul is presently Vice President of Claims at AmTrust North America in charge of their Program Division.

**Daniel J. Ripper** is a partner in the law firm of Luther-Anderson, PLLP in Chattanooga, Tennessee and has been in practice since 1992. He is licensed in all state and federal courts in both Tennessee and Georgia, as well as the Sixth and Eleventh Circuit Courts of Appeal and the United States Supreme Court. Dan received his BA from the University of Notre Dame in 1989 and his JD from the University of Tennessee in 1992. Since that time he has represented corporations and other businesses as well as individuals in a variety of civil and criminal cases. His practice primarily focuses on the defense of insureds in auto, product and legal malpractice matters along with the frequently associated coverage disputes. He also represents professionals before licensing and disciplinary boards and individuals in significant criminal matters. As a result he has tried over 150 cases to verdict before a jury. Mr. Ripper is a frequent program presenter for insurance company adjuster CEU programs on topics including ethics, claims handling practices, negotiation and handling of coverage issues. He is a member of the Tennessee Bar Association, the Georgia State Bar and the American Bar Association.

**Marc A. Sheiness** is Managing Partner in the Houston, Texas, civil trial law firm of Sheiness Glover & Grossman, LLP and is AV-rated by Martindale-Hubbell. Marc received his B.A. from Texas A&M University and his J.D. from Baylor University. He is board certified in Personal Injury Trial Law by the Texas Board of Legal Specialization. Marc is admitted to practice before the U.S. District Courts for the Southern, Eastern, Northern and Western Districts of Texas, and before the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Fifth Circuit. His professional memberships include the Texas Association of Defense Counsel, Defense Research Institute, and Eagle International Associates, Inc. He has been engaged primarily in insurance defense since his practice began, with primary areas of practice in products liability, professional malpractice, premises liability, and bad faith litigation.

**Brad Temple** is a Senior Attorney at West Bend Mutual Insurance Company, in its specialty lines division. In his role as Senior Attorney, Brad manages the division's insurance coverage litigation and is involved in bad faith and extra contractual matters. He also provides legal counsel to the division's claims and underwriting units. While at West Bend, he supervised the defense of litigated general and professional liability, EPLI/D&O and surety claims. Prior to joining West Bend in 2004, Brad was in private practice with law firms in Madison, Wisconsin and Waterloo, Iowa practicing primarily insurance defense. Brad received his J.D. from Drake University in 1996.

**Peter M. Waldeck** practices exclusively in insurance defense matters, including construction law, product liability, insurance coverage, no-fault UM/UIM, auto liability, professional liability, employment law, day care, health clubs and liquor liability. This includes all phases of litigation from pre-suit investigation and evaluation through trials and appeals. Mr. Waldeck has tried cases throughout Minnesota and Wisconsin and has successfully argued cases at the appellate level. Peter earned a B.A. from Drake University and a J.D. from John Marshall Law School.

**Christopher Ziemba** is the Chief Claims Officer for Euclid Specialty Managers, LLC, a program manager that specializes in fiduciary and other management liability insurance programs for multiemployer, governmental and other non-profit employee benefit plans. In his role as Chief Claims Officer, Chris is responsible for managing all aspects of the claims department. Prior to joining Euclid, Chris served as Managing Claims Attorney for a member company of a Fortune 500 insurance services corporation, specializing in executive and professional liability insurance. In his role, Chris managed a team of claims attorneys and professionals handling claims under various specialty product lines. His experience includes expertise in claims management, litigation management, insurance coverage and the negotiation and resolution of complex claims. Chris has over seventeen years of legal and claims experience and is an active member of PLUS and the Claims and Litigation Management Alliance. He has been a speaker and panelist at various events for PLUS, ACI and the ABA. Chris received his J.D. from Chicago-Kent College of Law and an M.B.A. from the Illinois Institute of Technology. Chris resides outside of Chicago with his wife and very active autistic son, who loves any activities that involve being immersed in or drenched with water.

**TO REGISTER**  
**See Attached GUEST Registration Form**