# EAGLE INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATES, INC.

PRESENTS

# HOW TO AVOID LITIGATION NIGHTMARES

March 21, 2013 The Commonwealth Club Richmond, Virginia

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## HOW TO AVOID LITIGATION NIGHTMARES

### March 21, 2013 Richmond, Virginia

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## HOW TO AVOID LITIGATION NIGHTMARES

### March 21, 2013 Richmond, Virginia

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### THE PANELISTS

**David W. Ashley** is the Director of General Liability Claims for the Markel Corporation. David is responsible for General Liability claims throughout North America. David's career in property and casualty insurance claims spans over 30 years and includes a wide variety of assignments and positions involving claim operations and management. Before joining Markel in 2005, he has been associated with a number of insurance carriers including Safeco, Industrial Indemnity/Coregis, Reliance, Scottsdale and Progressive Insurance Companies. David holds a bachelors degree in Business Administration from California State University at Los Angeles.

**Stacy S. Davis** has an extensive background in the Property & Casualty insurance industry, where she has worked since 1996. She is an Office Litigation Specialist, a position she has held for 12 years, in the Litigation Unit of Virginia Farm Bureau Mutual Insurance Co., headquartered in Richmond, VA. In that role she is responsible for supervising a caseload of lawsuits filed in general district courts throughout the central, northern and southern regions of Virginia. In addition, she provides support to the Claims Attorney and the Field Litigation Specialists. During her employment with Virginia Farm Bureau, Stacy has also worked in the Underwriting, Policy Services, Special Investigations and Subrogation departments, and has been involved with Reinsurance and Marketing projects. She obtained her AIC designation in 2011 and her AINS designation in 2010, and has completed several courses in the I-Car Technical Training. She is an active member of both the Richmond Claims Association, having held all officer positions and served as President in 2012, and the Virginia State Claims Association, serving on the Annual Conference Planning Committee. For over 16 years, she has participated in volunteer opportunities through Virginia Farm Bureau with organizations such as the State Fair of Virginia, Farm Bureau Live, Special Olympics, and Agriculture in the Classroom (AITC). She currently serves on the Virginia Farm Bureau Emergency Response Team (certified member) and assists the company's PRIDE, Employee Participation, and Wellness teams. In addition to her professional extra-curricular activities, Stacy is very active volunteering in her community and elsewhere for non-profit organizations.

**Joseph A. Feichtel** is an Executive Claims Examiner for Markel Service, Incorporated (Markel) in Richmond, Virginia. He primarily handles complex and/or litigated general liability claims, throughout the U.S. Mr. Feichtel began his insurance career as a claim's representative at Allstate Insurance Company. He then transitioned into the commercial side of the industry with Colony Insurance. Prior to joining Markel, he also worked for National Grange Mutual Insurance. Having been raised in mid-central Pennsylvania (then educated at James Madison University), Mr. Feichtel has resided in Richmond, Virginia for the past 24 years.

**Linda G. Hinckle** began her insurance carrier in 1986 with Hartford when she moved to Richmond from the Philadelphia area. She worked for Hartford for 12 years, Berkley Mid-Atlantic for 8 years and has been a Claim Supervisor with Colony Specialty Insurance Company since August 2006. She has experience handling or managing workers' compensation claims and general liability claims. She currently supervises a unit handling excess surplus general liability claims. Linda has experience with litigation management as it been a key aspect of handling and managing both standard line and excess surplus general liability claims.

**Timothy F. Hughes** is a Litigation Manager at Argo Group US in Richmond, Virginia. He handles all aspects of insurance coverage and litigation management. His work includes coverage assessments and supervision of outside counsel and other claims professionals representing his company and its insureds. Prior to joining Argo Group US, Mr. Hughes owned his own claims management company, Hughes Claims Consulting LLC. Prior to forming his own company, Mr. Hughes was employed by Markel North America as Director of Technical Claims and Essex Insurance Company as a Vice-President. A native of Los Angeles, California, Mr. Hughes is now a more than 35 year resident of Northern Virginia.

**Rob Tameler** has been the Claims Manager with Attorneys Liability Protection Society, Inc., a Risk Retention Group (ALPS) since 2005 and is responsible for the day-to-day claims operation in ALPS' 28 jurisdictions. He has been with the company since 1999. His work experience since joining ALPS includes the investigation, evaluation and resolution of complex lawyer's professional liability claims and supervising the claims department. In addition to working as a claims attorney, he has also worked as Associate Counsel for ALPS parent company, ALPS Corporation. Prior to joining ALPS, Mr. Tameler practiced law for eight years in Montana and Pennsylvania where the bulk of his experience was in malpractice defense and general litigation.

**Harland Westgate** is a graduate of the University of Delaware and The George Washington University Law School and is admitted to the District of Columbia Bar. He has served as a volunteer EMT for various organizations since 2000 and currently holds NREMT certification. After law school, he joined PRMS in the Risk Management department, advising physicians on medico-legal risk and developing risk management materials for telemedicine providers. In 2010 he joined the claims department and is responsible for managing claims against psychiatrists and neurologists in twelve states from report of incident through settlement, dismissal, or verdict.

### THE MODERATORS AND SPEAKERS

Fred Gleaton was admitted to the Bar in 1976 at the age of 23. In the 36 years since, his civil litigation practice has included products liability, physician and attorney professional liability, property and premises liability, commercial matters, and general personal injury defense. He is a founding partner in Owen, Gleaton, Egan, Jones & Sweeney, LLP, and has tried scores of cases to jury verdict throughout Georgia. In 2008, Mr. Gleaton was among the first ten lawyers in Georgia to be certified by the American Board of Professional Liability Attorneys. He has been elected as an Advocate by the American Board of Trial Advocates, named a Fellow of the Litigation Counsel of America, and is a co-founder of the American Academy of Medical Malpractice Lawyers. Mr. Gleaton is an active member of the Defense Research Institute, the Georgia Defense Lawyers Association, and the Counsel on Litigation Management. He has been recognized as one of The Best Lawyers in America, has been named to Georgia's Super Lawyers (2007-2013), and listed in Georgia Trend's Legal Elite. A native south Georgian, raised in Warwick, Georgia, Mr. Gleaton received his undergraduate degree magna cum laude from the University of Georgia (A.B., 1973), where he was a member of Phi Beta Kappa and Phi Kappa Phi. He is a graduate of the University of Virginia Law School (J.D., 1976), where he was a member of the Editorial Board of the Virginia Journal of International Law.

**Jeffrey V. Hill** is a partner at Hill & Lamb LLP (<u>www.hill-lamb.com</u>), an insurance and trial practice law firm in Portland, Oregon. He is a thirty year trial lawyer who concentrates his practice in the areas of complex insurance coverage, professional, fire, environmental and financial liability. 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 Associate of Defense Counsel, Defense Research Institute, The CLM and is a frequent contributor to insurance and trial related presentations around the United States and Europe. <u>jhill@hill-lamb.com</u>. 503-417-1104.

**David D. Hudgins** is the founder of the Hudgins Law Firm, P.C., a litigation, business and insurance practice serving clients in Virginia, Maryland and Washington, D.C. He was born in Virginia and attended Hampden-Sydney College and the University of Richmond School of Law. Mr. Hudgins represents clients in diverse areas of practice including lawyers professional liability, products liability, church liability, employment law, medical malpractice, private security, intellectual property, financial agents and brokers, defamation, municipal liability, discrimination, coverage determinations, construction and general liability. Mr. Hudgins is rated AV Preeminent by the Martindale-Hubbell Law Directory. He has extensive trial experience and has been elected to membership in the American Board of Trial Advocates and the Federation of Defense and Corporate Counsel. He is a contributing author for the Virginia CLE Publications Handbook *Insurance Law in Virginia*, and is a co-author of *Tort and Personal Injury Law* in West's Virginia Practice Series. Mr. Hudgins is a member of the Bars of Virginia, Maryland, and the District of Columbia. He is admitted to practice in all state and federal courts in these jurisdictions as well as the United States Supreme Court. Mr. Hudgins lives with his wife and family in Old Town Alexandria, Virginia.

**John McCammon** graduated from Davidson College in 1971 with a Bachelor's Degree in Psychology. He then attended the Lyndon Baines Johnson School of Public Affairs at the University of Texas and obtained a Masters Degree in Public Affairs. After serving in the Army, he obtained his Law Degree from the University of Virginia.

In 1976 Mr. McCammon joined a national law firm, McGuire Woods, in Richmond, Virginia, and became involved in two primary areas of practice: insurance defense work and commercial litigation with an emphasis in construction disputes. He became a partner involved in these practice areas which took him, as an advocate, into a significant number of mediations and arbitrations. In the late 1970's he served <u>ad hoc</u> as an Arbitrator for the American Arbitration Association. In 1986 he combined with three of his law partners at that time and formed a litigation firm (Wright, Robinson, McCammon, Osthimer and Tatum) in Richmond that soon thereafter opened offices in San Francisco, Los Angeles, and later in Washington, DC. During this time he increased his representation of a particular insurance company that promoted the use of mediation in defending its claims. As a result, he became very experienced in mediation as an advocate.

At the beginning of 1994, he retired and subsequently undertook a national due diligence effort, investigating the philosophies, programs, practices, and businesses underpinning mediation and arbitration activities throughout the Nation. After a thorough examination of the ADR landscape in throughout the Nation, Mr. McCammon founded The McCammon Group, Ltd. in 1995 to provide Alternative Dispute Resolution (ADR) services initially in Virginia. Throughout his career, Mr. McCammon was fortunate to have been positioned to observe the emergence and development of ADR.

**Mitchell A. Orpett** 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 is Eagle's attorney representative for the State of Illinois for the last two years. Mitch was one of six lawyers who formed the firm in 1984. His practice is devoted to the defense of various professional and product liability 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. He 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*. In recognition of his work, Mitch has also been selected as an Illinois "Super Lawyer" and to the Illinois Network of Leading Lawyers.

Mitch has devoted more than 30 years of service to the American Bar Association, holding numerous leadership positions and chairing several seminars. He recently completed his threeyear 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. He was the chair of the ABA's Section Officers Conference, in which capacity he represented the approximately 240,000 members of the sections and divisions of the American Bar Association. 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 (United States Supreme Court Justice Stephen G. Breyer, honorary chair) and has been an active member of the Federation of Defense & Corporate Counsel, the Illinois State Bar Association and the Chicago Bar Association. Mr. Orpett has been a frequent author and speaker on many topics dealing with insurance-related claims and litigation cost control for CLM and the American Bar Association and has authored many articles, including "Reinsurance," a chapter in West Group's *Law and Practice of Insurance Coverage Litigation*. He has provided training and in-service presentations to a host of insurance companies and other industry groups pertaining to insurance and reinsurance issues and coverage and bad faith.

Mitch has been involved in a number of lawsuits in which plaintiffs have asserted claims against third parties for the damages suffered as a result of gun violence. Those he has represented in such cases include counselors and social workers, non-profit agencies, property owners and employers. In addition to his courtroom experience in the area, Mitch has served as panelist and organizer for several seminars on the subject of liability for gun violence, including the ABA's "Gun Violence Liability: Taking Aim at the Gun Industry – Are Guns the Next Tobacco?," and "Gun and Media Violence – Issues for the Litigator" and has been interviewed and quoted on television and in newspaper articles dealing with legal issues surrounding gun violence, most recently in the Chicago Tribune in August 2012, in a story discussing civil litigation and the problem of gun violence.

Mitch is a graduate of the University of Illinois, where he earned his bachelors and masters of arts degrees. He is a 1978 graduate of that institution's College of Law.

**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.

**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.