



W. R. Berkley Corporation Forms Berkley North Pacific Group, LLC and Announces Executive Appointment

GREENWICH, Conn., Aug 14, 2009 (BUSINESS WIRE) -- **W. R. Berkley Corporation (NYSE: WRB)** today announced the formation of Berkley North Pacific Group, LLC, an operating unit that will be part of its regional segment. Berkley North Pacific Group will be based in Seattle, Washington. Together with our current presence in Boise, Idaho that we intend to maintain, Berkley North Pacific Group will provide standard commercial lines insurance services and expertise to a wide range of businesses throughout the Pacific Northwest utilizing the independent agency system.

Berkley North Pacific Group will underwrite products on behalf of W. R. Berkley Corporation's regional insurance member companies, which are all rated A+ (Superior) by A.M. Best Company, Inc. Berkley has had longstanding ties to the area through the Boise regional office of Continental Western Group, which will become a branch of Berkley North Pacific Group.

Jeffrey R. Dehn has been named president of Berkley North Pacific Group. Mr. Dehn has more than 34 years of experience in the insurance and financial services industries, over 25 of which have been focused in the Pacific Northwest market. He previously served in senior positions with another major insurer. Mr. Dehn earned a B.A. in Physics from State University of New York Oswego and a M.B.A. from City University, Seattle, Washington.

William R. Berkley, chairman of the board and chief executive officer of W. R. Berkley Corporation, said: "The formation of Berkley North Pacific Group demonstrates our commitment to maintain a local presence in the markets served by our regional operations. We are pleased to add Jeff Dehn, an accomplished and proven leader, as president of the new unit. The expansion of our presence in the Northwest represents an outstanding opportunity for our regional group."

For further information about the products and services available from Berkley North Pacific Group, please contact Jeff Dehn at jdehn@berkleynpac.com.

Founded in 1967, W. R. Berkley Corporation is an insurance holding company that is among the largest commercial lines writers in the United States and operates in five segments of the property casualty insurance business: specialty insurance, regional property casualty insurance, alternative markets, reinsurance, and international.

This is a "Safe Harbor" Statement under the Private Securities Litigation Reform Act of 1995. Any forward-looking statements contained herein, including statements related to our outlook for the industry and for our performance for the year 2009 and beyond, are based upon the Company's historical performance and on current plans, estimates and expectations. The inclusion of this forward-looking information should not be regarded as a representation by us or any other person that the future plans, estimates or expectations contemplated by us will be achieved. They are subject to various risks and uncertainties, including but not limited to, the success of our new ventures or acquisitions and the availability of other opportunities, our ability to attract and retain qualified employees, and other risks detailed from time to time in the Company's filings with the Securities and Exchange Commission. These risks could cause actual results of the industry or our actual results for the year 2009 and beyond to differ materially from those expressed in any forward-looking statement made by or on behalf of the Company. Any projections of growth in the Company's net premiums written and service fees would not necessarily result in commensurate levels of underwriting and operating profits. Forward-looking statements speak only as of the date on which they are made, and the Company undertakes no obligation to update publicly or revise any forward-looking statement, whether as a result of new information, future developments or otherwise.

SOURCE: W. R. Berkley Corporation

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