



W. R. Berkley Corporation Announces Executive Appointments at Berkley Regional Specialty Insurance Company and Regional Excess Underwriters, LLC

Paul S. McAuliffe Named President of Berkley Regional Specialty Insurance Company; Bill Thornton Appointed President of Regional Excess Underwriters, LLC

GREENWICH, Conn., Nov 05, 2009 (BUSINESS WIRE) -- **W. R. Berkley Corporation (NYSE: WRB)** today named Paul S. McAuliffe president of Berkley Regional Specialty Insurance Company. He succeeds Bill Thornton, who will now lead Regional Excess Underwriters, LLC as president and remains chairman of Berkley Regional Specialty. Both appointments are effective immediately.

Berkley Regional Specialty, based in Scottsdale, Arizona, was formed in 2005 to provide broader access as a commercial property and casualty surplus lines non-admitted market for selected Berkley group regional agents. Its products consist of commercial general liability, commercial property and inland marine exposures.

Mr. McAuliffe comes to Berkley Regional Specialty with more than 30 years of experience in the property and casualty insurance industry. For the past eight years, he has served as a senior vice president of Acadia Insurance Company, another W. R. Berkley Corporation member company. Mr. McAuliffe graduated with a B.S.B.A. in Economics from Babson College and holds both the CIC and CRM designations.

Mr. Thornton joined W. R. Berkley Corporation in 1990 and has served as president of Berkley Regional Specialty since 2008. Previously, he was president of both Acadia Insurance Company and Union Standard Insurance Company, each a member company of W. R. Berkley Corporation, and he has over 39 years of insurance industry experience.

In a related development at Regional Excess Underwriters, Irvin "Skip" Wolf III has been promoted to senior vice president, reporting directly to Mr. Thornton. In this new position, Mr. Wolf's duties and responsibilities have been significantly expanded.

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.

SOURCE: W. R. Berkley Corporation

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