



## **W. R. Berkley Corporation Forms Berkley Professional Liability, LLC and Announces Executive Appointments**

GREENWICH, Conn., Oct 14, 2008 (BUSINESS WIRE) -- W. R. Berkley Corporation (NYSE: WRB) today announced the formation of Berkley Professional Liability, LLC ("BerkleyPro"). BerkleyPro will offer professional liability products, including directors and officers liability (D&O) insurance. The new New York City-based unit will focus on large public and non-public entities on behalf of W. R. Berkley Corporation member insurance companies.

John R. Benedetto has been named president of BerkleyPro. Mr. Benedetto has more than 19 years of experience in the insurance and financial services industries. He previously served in senior positions with a major insurer. Mr. Benedetto earned a B.S.B.A. in Finance and International Management from Boston University.

Steven P. Walsh has been appointed executive vice president of BerkleyPro. Mr. Walsh has 14 years of related experience in the insurance industry. He graduated with a B.S. in Finance from the University of Scranton.

Paul Brophy has been named BerkleyPro's senior vice president. He has over 15 years of insurance experience in both underwriting and management roles. Mr. Brophy received a J.D. and a B.A. from the University of Arizona.

William R. Berkley, chairman of the board and chief executive officer of W. R. Berkley Corporation, said: "The formation of BerkleyPro demonstrates our commitment to selectively identifying new opportunities that offer superior risk adjusted returns. We are pleased to add experienced, talented and skilled executives such as John, Steven and Paul, allowing us to expand our professional liability product offerings. We expect that BerkleyPro's operations will complement the other professional liability products presently offered by the W. R. Berkley Corporation group of companies."

For further information about the products and services available from BerkleyPro, please contact John Benedetto at [jbenedetto@berkleypro.com](mailto:jbenedetto@berkleypro.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 2008 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 2008 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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