



W. R. Berkley Corporation Forms Verus Underwriting Managers, LLC and Announces Executive Appointment

GREENWICH, Conn., Apr 30, 2010 (BUSINESS WIRE) -- **W. R. Berkley Corporation (NYSE: WRB)** today announced the formation of Verus Underwriting Managers, LLC. Verus, based in Richmond, Virginia, will provide property and casualty excess and surplus lines coverages and will underwrite on behalf of W. R. Berkley Corporation member insurance companies rated A+ (Superior) by A.M. Best Company, Inc.

Dale H. Pilkington has been named president of Verus. Mr. Pilkington has more than 30 years of experience in the commercial insurance industry, with a primary focus on excess and surplus lines. He most recently served as president of the excess and surplus lines segment of a major insurer. Mr. Pilkington earned a Bachelor of Arts in Accounting from the University of South Florida.

William R. Berkley, chairman of the board and chief executive officer of W. R. Berkley Corporation, said: "We are pleased to have Dale join us as president of this new operating unit. Securing the services of outstanding people, such as Dale, provides us with a tremendous competitive advantage as we increase our presence in the specialty insurance segment of the industry."

For further information about the products and services available from Verus Underwriting Managers, LLC, please contact Dale Pilkington at dpilkington@wrberkley.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 2010 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 2010 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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