

and Early History



of Philadelphia succeeded Mr. Houser and served as chair from 1983 to 1986, and third in the lineage was Tom Gordon, also of Portland.

Under Mr. Gordon's leadership, from 1986 to 1989, the amorphous committee took shape. The Insurance Coverage and Claims Institute became enshrined as an annual event in Chicago. And it was there that the chair first began to convene membership meetings, in the front of the room, at the end of day one. At those meetings was begun the still-observed practice of soliciting ideas for seminar topics and publications, and recruiting volunteers to do the work of the committee.

Paul Butler of Tampa reigned from 1989 to 1992. During his days, the committee launched a newsletter, *Covered Events*. Tom Brown of Philadelphia was the first editor, succeeded by Ron Robinson of Beverly Hills. Captivating layouts and solid content vaulted *Covered Events* ahead of all other DRI newsletters. (In truth, there was only one other. And it was pretty good, too). Also in Mr. Butler's time, the Insurance Coverage and Practice Symposium was instituted in New York City in December.

Under the next occupant of the chair, Mr. Robinson, the committee continued to polish *Covered Events* and to solidify the preeminence of the committee's seminars. The Insurance Coverage and Claims Institute became a "trifecta" allowing attendees to choose from three concurrent tracks. To this day, the ICCI has multiple tracks. "Dine Arounds" were brought into the mix to promote collegiality and enhance marketing opportunities.

And that was the first historical period of the Insurance Law Committee. The ensuing saga remains to be written, and will be written. How the committee grew along with DRI (an arm no longer). How Bob Reeder of Philadelphia was succeeded as chair by Shaun Baldwin of Chicago, shattering the glass ceiling. How Tom Segalla of Buffalo shouldered the burden of six seminars per year. How Mike Aylward of Boston garnered the DRI Leadership Award in 2002. And so on, through the splendid sovereignty of Jeanne Unger of Minneapolis, Paul White of Los Angeles and Julia Molander of San Francisco.

In truth, though, the real story of the Insurance Law Committee is that of its

many members who, day in and day out, have advanced the cause through their service—writing, speaking and working. Their level of competence is extremely high, their commitment inspiring. This legion of dedicated members has made the committee the strong and viable force that it is. And from them has grown the camaraderie, the genuine collegiality, that makes folks want to return year in and year out to Insurance Law Committee gatherings, where stories can be shared, lessons learned, and friendships enriched.

And so we come to this issue of *For The Defense*. We hope you enjoy the articles that follow, authored by some of the *current* talent in DRI's Insurance Law Committee. The very breadth reflects the "big tent" that is the committee. First, John Love and Ann Ketchen examine the "Emerging Law on Electronic Data Insurance." Patrick Boley shares important guideposts for understanding the "Rights and Obligations Arising from Excess Insurance." A primer on "Navigating the Intersection of Bankruptcy and Insurance" comes from Wayne Borgeest and Robert Benjamin. Wen-Shin Cheng and Rae Williamson review insurer considerations when "Settling Claims Under Reservation of Rights." And finally, in light of the recent economic downturn, John Garaffa reviews a case worth watching that could potentially expose "Business Interruption as a New Profit Center." A special thanks to Rick Bale of Larson King in St. Paul, Minnesota, our committee's publications vice chair for *For The Defense*, for all the hard work he put into make this excellent collection happen. If you're interested in contributing in the future, as an author or a volunteer editor, feel free to contact Rick at rbale@larsonking.com. Better yet, attend one of the committee's business meetings at one of our national programs, such as the Insurance Coverage and Practice Symposium, November 18–19 in New York City, or even at DRI's Annual Meeting, October 20–24 in San Diego. We hope to see you—and see you involved—soon!