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**PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE**

**Law Office of Ryan M. Opria, Portage, Michigan, 2007 - Present**

Primary practice areas: Commercial litigation and arbitration. Counseling businesses on dispute avoidance.

**General Reinsurance Corporation, Stamford, Connecticut, 2004 - 2007**

**Assistant General Counsel, Second Vice President**

Primary practice areas: Investment Advisers Act, Corporate Compliance and Governance, Mergers & Acquisitions, Internal Investigations, Litigation Management, Contract Wordings, Real Estate

- Counsel to Gen Re New England Asset Management, an SEC registered investment adviser with over \$25 billion in assets under management. Handled all regulatory, legal, and compliance issues, including review of investment management agreements, vendor contracts, marketing and advertising materials, and private placement memoranda.
- Lead in-house counsel for acquisition and squeeze-out of minority interests of German subsidiary. Liaison with German outside counsel and investment bankers to acquire interests from minority shareholders and initiate statutory proceedings to achieve 100% ownership and delisting of German subsidiary.
- Lead in-house lawyer for internal investigation of finite reinsurance transactions written by U.S. and Irish operating units.
  - Directed activities of outside law firms in response to investigations by the SEC and USDOJ, requests by attorneys general in New York and Connecticut, and inquiries from insurance regulators in Delaware, California and Canada.
  - Assessed corporate compliance and governance issues arising from investigation and developed recommendations for modifications to corporate policies and structure.
- Lead in-house counsel advising on corporate policy with respect to marketing issues, including adoption of strengthened disclaimer language, responses to RFP's and identification/remediation of potential conflicts of interest when performing consulting services in connection with marketing efforts.
- Managed litigation against the company arising from regulatory investigations, shareholder and derivative suits, suits by receivers of insolvent counterparties, and copyright and breach of contract litigation.
- Chief liaison with contract wordings department on issues of legal or regulatory significance.
- Managed outside counsel for corporate real estate transactions in seventy countries worldwide.

**Lord, Bissell & Brook LLP**, Chicago, Illinois, 1997 - 2004

Final Position: **Partner**, Business Litigation Department

Primary practice areas: Arbitration and Litigation

- Lead counsel in \$1 million arbitration victory for worker's compensation carrier against reinsurer who wrongfully denied claims under carve-out reinsurance agreements. Obtained all relief sought, including payment of all outstanding claims, and a finding of bad faith on the part of reinsurer.
- Lead counsel in \$800,000 arbitration victory for Cayman Islands-based client against managing general agent and minority shareholder that failed to provide security pursuant to shareholder agreement. Conducted all oral argument and witness examination at hearing. Obtained confirmation of award in Federal court.
- Second chaired arbitration and obtained award denying \$10 million damage claim. Conducted oral argument and examined witnesses at hearing. Obtained Federal court order confirming award and enjoining opponent from rearbitrating same issues in second arbitration.
- Successfully negotiated walk-away resolution of \$3 million claim by captive insurer of an international accounting firm.
- Second chaired arbitration defending Bermuda-based client against contract claim by counterparty. Took all depositions, conducted oral argument and examined witnesses at hearing. Obtained discount for client of \$1 million off \$3 million claim.
- Second chaired arbitration in defense of insurer facing managing general agent's claim for wrongful termination of exclusive producer agreement. Took all depositions, conducted oral argument and examined witnesses at hearing. Obtained favorable award denying \$16 million of \$19 million in requested damages and obtained indemnification from third party for remainder of the award.
- Lead associate on trial team that obtained \$20 million discount for client in settlement of \$30 million asbestos claim brought by Bermuda-based captive insurer.
- Lead associate on six lawyer trial team in asbestos-related insurance coverage action. Won favorable verdict after eight-week trial in New Brunswick, New Jersey. Reduced client's exposure by \$100 million.
- Handled international disputes involving parties in Bermuda, Barbados, the Cayman Islands and the United Kingdom, international discovery under the Hague Convention, choice of law, arbitrability, and confirmation of awards under the Federal Arbitration Act and the United Nations Convention on the Recognition and Enforcement of Foreign Arbitral Awards.

Member of firm's Hiring Committee. Founding member of firm's Associates Committee.

2004 Recipient of Chicago Volunteer Legal Services Distinguished Service Award.

## **EDUCATION**

**University of Michigan Law School, J.D., 1997**

- Certificate of Merit for Writing and Advocacy

**Yale University, B.A., History, 1994**

- **Yale Heavyweight Varsity Crew, 1990 - 1994**  
Three-year varsity letterman  
Winner of **Augustus S. Blagden Trophy** - award given to the senior who has done the most to enhance the tradition of rowing at Yale, 1994

## **BAR ADMISSIONS**

Illinois, 1997

Connecticut, 2006

Michigan 2007

## **COURTS**

U.S. District Court, Northern District of Illinois, 1997

U.S. Court of Appeals (9th Circuit), 2001

U.S. District Court, Western District of Michigan, 2007

## **PROFESSIONAL AND COMMUNITY ORGANIZATIONS**

American Bar Association

State Bar of Michigan

Illinois State Bar Association

Kalamazoo County Bar Association

Kalamazoo Regional Chamber of Commerce