

Full Steam Ahead!

By Kathy J. Maus

“Social media is an amazing tool, but it’s really the face-to-face interaction that makes a long-term impact.”

—Felicia Day

# From Learning the Basics to Mastering the Nuances of Insurance Law, Our Committee Is Here for You

I am not so sure 2021 started out much better than 2020, but what I do know is that DRI and the Insurance Law Committee (ILC) are robust and rolling full steam ahead!

I encourage all DRI members who are, or want to be,

members of the Insurance Law Committee, and wish to get more actively involved, to reach out to me, [kmaus@butler.legal](mailto:kmaus@butler.legal), and our vice chair, Jonathan Schwartz, [jschwartz@goldbergsegalla.com](mailto:jschwartz@goldbergsegalla.com), and we will make it happen. Whether on our thriving membership, publications, seminars, and/or webinars/online programming committees, we have a place for you. In addition, sign up and become active in one of the ILC’s numerous Substantive Law Groups (SLGs).

Although we could not get together in person, 2021 started with a bang. We held our Steering Committee and SLG chairs/vice chairs meeting via Zoom in February 2021, and it was fantastic. It was an all-day event, but our leaders did not grow weary.

The meeting was substantive, interactive, and fun, and it was so great to “see” all those able to attend. From my perspective, it vitalized and revitalized your ILC leaders, which will make your DRI experiences even better moving forward.

In March 2021, we held *Introduction to Insurance Law* as part of DRI’s Basic Series, in order to provide a basic introduction to insurance law and an overview of key concepts, including how to read an insurance policy, coverage opinions, and more. It was an excellent presentation, and I wish to thank Elaine Pohl and Timothy Wright for leading the charge in that regard.

I am sure you previously heard, but we are so excited for our in-person seminars,



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Insurance Coverage and Claims Institute and Bad Faith, simultaneously being held July 22–24, 2021, in Chicago. Please note the format is from Thursday to Saturday, one day shifted forward from our traditional seminar schedule. Please make plans to attend one seminar or the other and enjoy fabulous live presentations, social activities, and networking. Make plans to stay over Saturday night, and I promise some fun activities!

In addition to all of the above, we are working on our Complex Coverage Forum in Ohio in November and the Insurance Coverage Practices seminar in New York in December. Of course, we also have an opportunity to network at the DRI Annual Meeting in October in Boston.

We are pleased to participate in this edition of *For The Defense*, and I wish to highlight the following authors and their topics, which you do not want to miss.

**Christopher J. S. Jeanos, James Fitzmaurice, Diana Curtis (Willkie Farr & Gallagher), Insurance Coverage Issues Arising In Connection With The Opioid Crisis.** This article provides the latest updates in litigation resulting from the opioid crisis, emerging

trends affecting insurance coverage issues and questions raised by that litigation.

**Brian McDonough (McDonough, Cohen & Maselek), Deconstructing Risk Transfer For Construction-Related Property Damage Claims.** The article analyzes key considerations for direct defense and indemnity under general contractors' and subcontractors' respective policies, and efforts needed to transfer those exposures via additional insured and insured contract coverages.

**Mollie Werwas and Jeanne Zeiger (Kopon Airdo), Missing Pieces: Evaluating Coverage When Policies Are Lost.** This article examines what constitutes adequate evidence of the existence of coverage and coverage defenses, the burdens of proof owed by a policyholder and the insurer, emerging trends in this area, and outlier cases. Practical and pragmatic guidance is provided for those who find themselves on both sides of these sometimes-thorny issues, including how to work through the coverage questions without negatively affecting the outcome of the underlying claim.

We are so proud of all of our members and look forward to seeing each of you at our upcoming meetings!

