CIPR Webinar: Weeding Through the Unique Insurance Needs of the Cannabis Industry

Wednesday, May 16, 2018
11:30 a.m. – 12:45 p.m. CT

11:30 a.m. Introduction: Program Overview and Emerging Landscape
— Dave Jones, Commissioner
  California Department of Insurance

11:45 a.m. Covering Cannabis Business Risks
— Stacey Jackson, General Counsel
  Golden Bear Insurance Company

12:05 p.m. Insurance Coverage Gaps and Claim Trends
— Ian A. Stewart, Partner
  Wilson Elser Moskowitz Edelman & Dicker LLP

12:20 p.m. Roundtable Discussion: What Will the Market for Cannabis Look Like?
— Dave Jones, Commissioner
  California Department of Insurance
— Stacey Jackson, General Counsel
  Golden Bear Insurance Company
— Ian Stewart, Attorney at Law
  Wilson Elser Moskowitz Edelman & Dicker LLP

12:35 p.m. Q&A and Closing Remarks
— Dave Jones, Commissioner
  California Department of Insurance
PARTICIPANT BIOGRAPHIES

Dave Jones
Commissioner
California Department of Insurance

Dave Jones is California’s Insurance Commissioner. He was first elected Insurance Commissioner on Nov. 2, 2010, and re-elected Nov. 4, 2014. Jones leads the California Department of Insurance (DOI) and regulates the California insurance market. Insurers collect $259 billion a year in premiums in California, making it the nation’s largest insurance market. Since taking office, Jones has secured crucial victories for consumers.

In 2011, the Daily Journal, the state’s largest legal newspaper, named Jones one of California’s top 100 lawyers. The Greenlining Institute gave Jones its 2012 Big Heart Award for his work promoting insurance industry diversity. Jones also received the 2012 Distinguished Advocate Award from Autism Speaks.

Jones served in the California State Assembly from 2004 through 2010, where he chaired the Assembly Health Committee, the Assembly Judiciary Committee and the Budget Subcommittee on Health and Human Services. Named “Consumer Champion” by the California Consumer Federation, Jones was also awarded the Leadership Award by the Western Center on Law and Poverty. Planned Parenthood, Environment California, the Urban League, Preschool California and the California Public Interest Research Group (CALPIRG) have all honored his work. Capitol Weekly named Jones California’s “most effective legislator” other than the Assembly Speaker and the Senate president pro tempore. The American Psychiatric Association (APA) awarded Jones its prestigious Jacob K. Javits Public Service Award in 2015 for his work on mental health parity. As a legislator, Jones had more than 70 bills signed into law.

Jones began his career as a legal aid attorney, providing free legal assistance to the poor with Legal Services of Northern California (LSNC) from 1988 to 1995. In 1995, Jones was one of only 13 Americans awarded the prestigious White House Fellowship. He served in the Clinton administration for three years as Special Assistant and Counsel to U.S. Attorney General Janet Reno. Jones served on the Sacramento City Council from 1999 to 2004.

Jones graduated with honors from DePauw University, Harvard Law School and Harvard University’s Kennedy School of Government.
Stacey Jackson is General Counsel for Golden Bear Insurance Company. She began her legal career as a prosecutor for the San Joaquin County District Attorney’s office before becoming a civil litigator. She was partner in the civil defense firm of Thayer, Harvey, Gregerson, Hedberg and Jackson and represented insureds throughout California before coming to “the Bear.” Jackson represents Golden Bear as an active member of PADIC- Pacific Association of Domestic Insurance Companies.

On point with the coming presentation, Jackson was instrumental in drafting coverage for the Cannabis package policy offered by Golden Bear. It is the first admitted cannabis product in the State of California.
Ian A. Stewart
Partner
Wilson Elser Moskowitz Edelman & Dicker LLP

Ian A. Stewart is a partner in the Los Angeles office of national law firm Wilson Elser Moskowitz Edelman & Dicker LLP. He has defended complex litigation in state and federal courts for more than 20 years with a focus on product liability, complex general casualty, cannabis law, transportation and marine claims, data privacy and security, and intellectual property litigation.

As co-chair of the firm’s cannabis law practice, Stewart helps clients navigate the challenging new risk management, business practices and insurance landscape presented by the rapidly developing area of cannabis law. Stewart helps traditional and new organizations prepare for regulatory changes and liability trends whether dealing with regulatory compliance, product liability risks, defense of false advertising and unfair competition claims, professional liability risks, brand protection and obstacles to protecting intellectual property, assisting start-ups with novel risk management methods, or insurance coverage problems created by conflicting state and federal laws.

Stewart works with licensed cannabis operators to comply with their obligations under the law and to develop risk management best practices. He regularly consults with insurance companies to assist with cannabis-related underwriting practices and the development of new policy forms. Stewart is currently vice chair of the insurance committees of the National Cannabis Industry Association (NCIA) and the California Cannabis Industry Association (CCIA).
LEARNING OBJECTIVES

At the completion of this program, attendees will be able to:

- Identify the legal standing of cannabis across states.
- Explain first- and third-party coverage issues and needs.
- Explain the complications of legal uncertainty on workers’ compensation.
- Explain the impact of policy exclusions.
- Identify emerging best practices and standards.
- Explain on-site consumption issues and risks.
- Explain the impact of a cash-based business on insurance coverage needs.
- Identify the role of technology in cannabis-related insurance availability.