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PRESENTER



Vince Morgan leads Bracewell's coverage practice, which represents corporate policyholders rather than insurance companies. Vince has helped clients recover billions of dollars in insurance claims, litigation and arbitration involving a wide variety of coverage matters. He is perennially ranked by Chambers USA, Best Lawyers in America (including being named "Lawyer of the Year" multiple times), Super Lawyers and others. His work extends to *pro bono* matters as well, where he has also recovered millions of dollars for individuals and legal aid organizations on insurance issues.

Mr. Morgan is a past Chair of the Insurance Law Section of the State Bar of Texas, a fellow of the American College of Coverage Counsel, and a member of the Editorial Board of West's *Insurance Litigation Reporter*. He is a coauthor of several leading reference authorities on insurance coverage, including West Publishing's CAT Claims: Insurance Coverage for Natural and Man-Made Disasters, in which he authored the chapters on risk management, the claims process and business interruption.



INSURANCE LAWYERS





OVERVIEW

- Introduction
- Why the Words Matter
- Getting It Right When Placing Coverage
- Key Commercial Coverages
- The Claims Process
- Additional Insured Issues
- Hot Topics
 - D&O/Reps and Warranties Coverage
 - Winter Storm Issues
- Takeaways



Why the Words Matter



WHY THE WORDS MATTER

"Insurance is different."

E.I. DuPont de Nemours & Co. v. Pressman, 679 A.2d 436, 447 (Del. 1996).



WHY THE WORDS MATTER

"We note at the outset that the insurance claim process is inherently adversarial. The adversarial process begins as soon as a claim is filed and ends only when the resolution of the claim is finally determined and accepted by the parties."

Barbara Technologies Corp. v. State Farm Lloyds, 2019 WL 2710089 (Tex. 2019)





WHY THE WORDS MATTER

"Most of the disputes in the world arise from words."

Morgan v. Jones [1773] Lofft 160, 176; 98 All E.R. 587, 596.





Getting It Right When Placing Coverage



COMPONENTS OF A TYPICAL INSURANCE POLICY

- Declarations Page
- Insuring Agreements
- Exclusions
- Definitions
- Conditions
- Endorsements







Key Commercial Coverages



Main First Party Coverage

- Commercial property coverage typically includes:
 - Loss of or damage to property
 - Business interruption
 - Contingent business interruption
 - Service interruption
 - Ingress/egress
 - Preservation and protection of property
 - Claim preparation expense





Other Common First Party Coverages

- Kidnap and ransom
- Control of well coverage
- Construction all risk
- Reps and Warranties



Main Third Party Coverage

- Commercial General Liability ("CGL") coverage typically includes:
 - Four primary coverages
 - bodily injury
 - property damage
 - personal and advertising injury
 - Two primary benefits
 - Duty to defend
 - Duty to indemnify



Other Common Third Party Coverages

- Directors & officers
- Employment practices
- Pollution/environmental
- Workers' compensation and employer's liability



Package Policies

- Cyber
- Aviation hull & liability
- Umbrella coverage



PRIOR TO A LOSS

- Reviewing and evaluating proposed policies
- Getting it right from the start:
 - Good policies tend to lead to good claims
 - Bad policies tend to lead to bad claims



GOOD POLICIES LEAD TO GOOD CLAIMS

Read the policy for and against the insured

Read the policy for terms that give the insurer bad incentives

Read the policy like the insurer's counsel will





Some Examples



COVERAGE DISASTERS

This policy language:

"This insurance does not apply to 'bodily injury', 'property damage' or 'personal and advertising injury' arising directly or indirectly out of . . . animals."



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Appeared in a liability policy



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"This insurance does not apply to 'bodily injury', 'property damage' or 'personal and advertising injury' arising directly or indirectly out of . . . animals."

Appeared in a liability policy

... for a saddle club.

Colony Ins. Co. v. Burleson County Saddle Club, Inc., 2018 WL 3946548 (W.D. Tex. Aug. 16, 2018).



This policy language:

"This insurance does not apply to [b]odily injury or property damage arising out of the conduct of or participation in, or preparation for, any parachuting activities."



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Appeared in a CGL policy for an airport



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"This insurance does not apply to [b]odily injury or property damage arising out of the conduct of or participation in, or preparation for, any parachuting activities."

Appeared in a CGL policy for an airport

. . . that operated a skydiving business.

U.S. Specialty Ins. Co. v. Sussex Airport, Inc., No. 15-5494 (D.N.J. May 9, 2016).





Item II | Limits of Insurance

CORPORATE KIDNAP AND RANSOM/EXTORTION INSURANCE

DECLARATIONS

Problem
Policy
Language

A.	Covered Loss A: \$ 3,000,000	_ each loss;	Ransom Monies: \$ Not applicable	_each annual aggregate
В.	Covered Loss B: \$ 3,000,000	_ each loss;	In-transit/Delivery: \$ Not applicable	each annual aggregate
C.	Covered Loss C: \$ 3,000,000	_ each loss;	Expenses: \$ Not applicable	_each annual aggregate
D.	Covered Loss D: \$ <u>Unlimited</u>	_ each loss;	Consultant Expenses: \$ Not applicable	each annual aggregate
E.	Covered Loss E: \$ 3,000,000	_ each loss;	Judgements, Settlements, a \$ Not applicable	nd Defense Costs: _each annual aggregate
F.	Covered Loss F: \$ 100,000	_ each person;	Death or Dismemberment: \$ 1,000,000	each incident





Item II | Limits of Insurance

CORPORATE KIDNAP AND RANSOM/EXTORTION INSURANCE

DECLARATIONS

See anything off with this picture?

Covered Loss A: Ransom Monies: \$3,000,000 each loss: \$ Not applicable each annual aggregate Covered Loss B: In-transit/Delivery: \$3,000,000 \$ Not applicable each loss: each annual aggregate Covered Loss C: Expenses: \$3,000,000 each loss: \$ Not applicable each annual aggregate Covered Loss D: Consultant Expenses: \$ Unlimited \$ Not applicable each annual aggregate each loss: Covered Loss E: Judgements, Settlements, and Defense Costs: \$3,000,000 each loss: \$ Not applicable each annual aggregate Covered Loss F: Death or Dismemberment: \$ 100,000 \$ 1,000,000 each incident each person;





Never forget definitions



23. Products – completed operations hazard:

Problem Definition

. . .

- Does not include bodily injury or property damage arising out of:
 - (1) The transportation of property, unless the injury or damage arises out of a condition in or on a vehicle not owned or operated by you, and that condition was created by the loading or unloading of that vehicle by any insured;
 - The existence of tools, uninstalled equipment or abandoned or unused materials; or
 - (3) Products or operations for which the classification in this Coverage Part or in our manual of rules includes products or completed operations.





23. Products – completed operations hazard:

• • •



- b. Does not include bodily injury or property damage arising out of:
 - (1) The transportation of property, unless the injury or damage arises out of a condition in or on a vehicle not owned or operated by you, and that condition was created by the loading or unloading of that vehicle by any insured;
 - (2) The existence of tools, uninstalled equipment or abandoned or unused materials; or
 - (3) Products or operations for which the classification in this Coverage Part or in our manual of rules includes products or completed operations.





THINKING LIKE INSURER COUNSEL

A more common version:

Section The Exclusions is amended by the addition of the following:

any Claim based upon or arising out of any violation of:

- (a) the Telephone Consumer Protection Act of 1991 (TCPA) and amendments thereto or any similar or related federal or state statute, law, rule, ordinance or regulation;
- (b) the CAN-SPAM Act of 2003 and amendments thereto or any similar or related federal or state statute, law, rule, ordinance or regulation; or
- (c) any other statute, law, rule, ordinance or regulation that prohibits or limits the sending, transmitting, communication or distribution of information or other material.





READ POLICY TERMS AT FACE VALUE





COMMONWEALTH INSURANCE COMPANY

THIS POLICY CONTAINS A CLAUSE WHICH MAY LIMIT THE AMOUNT PAYABLE.



(Rev. 06 March 2007) 17022

The Claims Process



HOW CAN THIS HELP IN MAKING A CLAIM?

- Read insurance policy terms at face value
- Read insurance policy terms for ambiguity
- Consider every way insurance policy terms could be read or interpreted



B. This Policy excludes loss or damage directly or indirectly caused by or resulting from any of the following regardless of any other cause or event, whether or not insured under this Policy, contributing concurrently or in any other sequence to the loss:

• • •

Problem
Policy
Language

- 4) lack of the following services:
 - a) incoming electricity, fuel, water, gas, steam or refrigerant;
 - b) outgoing sewerage;
 - c) incoming or outgoing voice, data or video,

all when caused by an event off the insured location, except as provided in the SERVICE INTERRUPTION coverages of this Policy. But, if the lack of such a service directly causes insured physical damage on the insured location, then only that resulting damage is insured.





B. This Policy excludes loss or damage directly or indirectly caused by or resulting from any of the following regardless of any other cause or event, whether or not insured under this Policy, contributing concurrently or in any other sequence to the loss:

Why?

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TERMS AGAINST THE INSURED'S INTEREST

B. This Policy excludes loss or damage directly or indirectly caused by or resulting from any of the following regardless of any other cause or event, whether or not insured under this Policy, contributing concurrently or in any other sequence to the loss:

Why?

. . .

4) lack of the following services:

Insured is a phone company.

- a) incoming electricity, fuel, water, gas, steam or refrigerant;
- b) outgoing sewerage;
- c) incoming or outgoing voice, data or video,

all when caused by an event off the insured location, except as provided in the SERVICE INTERRUPTION coverages of this Policy. But, if the lack of such a service directly causes insured physical damage on the insured location, then only that resulting damage is insured.





THINKING LIKE INSURER COUNSEL

D. Exclusions

The Insurance under this "PART TWO" does not cover:

Problem Policy ...

Language

 Injury, damages, claim or suit for any consequence, whether direct or indirect, proximately or remotely, occasioned by or contributed to by Terrorism.

13. Terrorism means the use or threatened use of force or violence against persons or property, or commission of an act dangerous to human life or property, or commission of an act that interferes with or disrupts an electronic or communication system, undertaken by any person or group, whether or not acting on behalf of or in connection with any organization, government, power, authority or military force, when the effect is to intimidate or coerce a government, the civilian population or any segment thereof, or to disrupt an segment of the economy.



THINKING LIKE AN INSURER COUNSEL

D. Exclusions

The Insurance under this "PART TWO" does not cover:

Injury, damages, claim or suit for any consequence, whether direct or indirect, proximately or remotely, occasioned by or contributed to by Terrorism.

Why?

• • •

13. Terrorism means the use or threatened use of force or violence against persons or property, or commission of an act dangerous to human life or property, or commission of an act that interferes with or disrupts an electronic or communication system, undertaken by any person or group, whether or not acting on behalf of or in connection with any organization, government, power, authority or military force, when the effect is to intimidate or coerce a government, the civilian population or any segment thereof, or to disrupt an segment of the economy.





THINKING LIKE INSURER COUNSEL

"Use or threatened use of force or violence against persons or property . . . when the effect is to intimidate or coerce . . . the civilian population or any segment thereof, or to disrupt any segment of the economy."



Terrorism?



THINKING LIKE INSURER COUNSEL

- Insurer argued terrorism exclusion applied to claim by oil rig workers who were kidnapped for ransom, and injured by shooting in the process because the kidnappers:
 - (i) intimidated all of the vessel workers, who were a "segment of the population," and
 - (ii) interrupted oil rig operations for several days, which was a "segment of the economy."

Johnson v. PPI Tech. Services, L.P., CIV.A. 11-2773, 2013 WL 6665996, at *1 (E.D. La. Dec. 17, 2013) (rejecting insurer's argument and holding insurer had a duty to defend)





When used in this policy:

A. Claim means:

- 1. a written demand for monetary damages,
- 2. a civil proceeding commenced by the service of a complaint or similar pleading,
- 3. a criminal proceeding commenced by a return of an indictment, or
- 4. a formal administrative or regulatory proceeding commenced by the filing of a notice of charges, formal investigative order or similar document,

against any Insured for a Wrongful Act, including any appeal therefrom.





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What can be a claim?

- A Lawsuit
- A Demand Letter





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What can be a claim?

- A Lawsuit
- A Demand Letter
- A PowerPoint?





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"In this case, there is a genuine issue of material fact regarding whether the PowerPoint presentation constitutes 'a written demand for monetary damages."

Foundation Health Services, Inc. v. Zurich Am. Ins. Co., CV 15-59-JJB-EWD, 2016 WL 1623761, at *3 (M.D. La. Apr. 20, 2016) (denying summary judgment motion on issue of when claim was made).





READ TERMS EVERY WAY THEY CAN BE READ

- Last Example:
- The Kaloko Dam in Kilauea, Kaua'i collapses.
- The responsible insured has its home office at 311 Pacific Street in Honolulu.







READ TERMS EVERY WAY THEY CAN BE READ

The insured's CGL Policy included a Designated Premises Endorsement:

Limitation of Coverage to Designated Premises

This insurance applies only to "bodily injury," "property damage," or "personal and advertising injury" arising out of the ownership, maintenance or use of the premises shown in the above schedule.

(emphasis added).



READ TERMS EVERY WAY THEY CAN BE READ

- The Hawaii Supreme Court held that the policy did cover claims against the insured arising out of the dam collapse.
- "[T]he injury and damage arguably relate to [the insured's] 'use' of its corporate headquarters to make negligent business decisions."
- "[W]e hold that the DPE unambiguously provides coverage for negligence claims arising out of the use of C. Brewer's corporate headquarters."

C. Brewer & Co., Ltd. v. Marine Indem. Ins. Co. of Am., 135 Hawai'i 190, 200, 347 P.3d 163, 173 (2015).



HOW CAN THE LAW HELP IN MAKING A CLAIM?

"The objective of an insurance policy is to insure; courts should not construe policies otherwise unless the language clearly requires it."

Warrilow v. Norrell, 791 S.W.2d 515 (Tex. App.—Corpus Christi 1989, writ denied).

"The purpose of an insurance company is to indemnify its insureds."

Am. Home Assurance Co. v. Unauthorized Practice of Law Comm., 121 S.W.3d 831, 839 (Tex. App.—Eastland 2003, pet. filed), aff'd in part as modified, rev'd in part, 261 S.W.3d 24 (Tex. 2008).





THE CLAIMS PROCESS – PROPERTY CLAIMS

- Post-Loss: Property Claims
 - Initial Steps:
 - Assess coverage
 - Notify carriers (followed by formal proof of loss)
 - Assemble the right claim team
 - Assess and quantify losses
 - Track costs
 - Preserve carrier rights (sue and labor, subrogation, salvage, inspection of property, books and records, etc.)
 - Proof of Loss, Contractual Limitations, Appraisal





THE CLAIMS PROCESS – LIABILITY CLAIMS

Liability Claims

- Assess Coverage
- Notice
- Cooperation
- Assess denials and reservations of rights
- Spot reimbursement claims
- Other Insurance
- Indemnity Issues
- Special Considerations
 - Multiple claims
 - Coordination with defense strategy



THE "LAWYERING" OF INSURANCE ISSUES

- Litigating a Coverage Dispute
 - Choice of law and forum
 - Declaratory judgment
 - Burdens of proof
 - Extra-contractual claims
 - Bad faith
 - Prompt payment



Additional Insured Issues



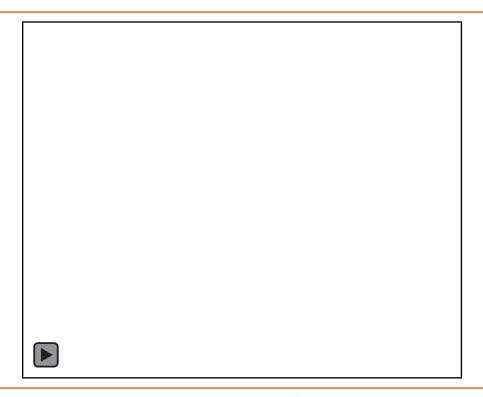
ADDITIONAL INSURANCE

Some examples after *Deepwater Horizon*:

Liberty Surplus Ins. Corp. v. Exxon Mobil, 483 S.W.3d 96 (Tex. Ct. App. —Houston [14 th Dist.] 2015, pet. denied)	Additional insureds are those "whom you have agreed to add as an additional insured by written contract but only with respect to liability arising out of your operations or premises owned by you."	Look to contract only to identify additional insured, not for scope of coverage
Ironshore Specialty Ins. Co. v. Aspen Underwriting, Ltd., 788 F.3d 456 (5 th Cir. 2015)	Additional insureds are those "to whom insured is obliged by a written "Insured Contract" but only with respect to: i) liability arising out of operations conducted by the insured or on its behalf."	Enough like Deepwater, look to the contract for scope of coverage
L-Con, Inc. v. CRC Ins. Servs, Inc., 122 F.Supp.3d 627 (S.D. Tex. 2015).	Additional insureds are those "that you have agreed to and/or are required to by contract name as an additional insured but only with respect to liability arising out of "your work" for that insured by or for you."	Policies "effectively direct" the court to consider the contract



ADDITIONAL INSURED ISSUES





Hot Topics D&O Coverage



D&O INSURANCE – RECENT DEVELOPMENTS

- Coverage for appraisal actions
 - Solera Holdings, Inc. v. XL Specialty Ins. Co.
- Nine West case
 - Prior directors and officers may be at risk for future events
- Oversight claims
 - Delaware courts more receptive to oversight claims (Marchand, Clovis Oncology, Hughes v. Hu and Teamsters v. Chou)
- Hard Market
 - More important than ever for lawyers to work together with risk managers and brokers to deal with D&O issues





Hot Topics Reps and Warranties Coverage



REPS AND WARRANTIES COVERAGE

Net Working Capital adjustments

III. EXCLUSIONS

The **Insurer** has no obligation to make payment for that portion of **Loss** that the **Insurer** is able to prove:

. . . .

D. arises out of amounts accounted for or included in the calculation of the aggregate purchase price adjustment set forth in Section 1.5 of the **Purchase Agreement** (with the intent of this provision to merely be to avoid "double counting" and not to limit any right to recover for **Loss** that arises out of or results from any **Breach** in excess of the amount of such **Loss** that adjusts the purchase price pursuant to such adjustment)

. . . .

If only part of the **Loss** is excluded under this Section III, the **Insurer** is liable for the portion of the **Loss** which is not excluded.

ADR Provisions





Hot Topics Winter Storm Issues







INSURING PROVISIONS

- Service Interruption
 - Differs by policy
 - Resulting damage v. off-premises coverage
 - Covered cause of loss v. any accident
 - Qualifying periods/waiting periods
- Contingent Business Interruption
- Dependent Properties
 - Customer/Supplier/Attraction





INSURING PROVISIONS

- Civil Authority
 - Guidance v. order
 - Geographic limitations
- Ingress/Egress
- Preservation of Property
 - Minimal use of power to prevent freezing
 - Potential coverage in the absence of damage or a total loss of power





APPLICATION TO LOSSES

- Sub-limits
- Number of occurrences
 - Multiple/conflicting CAT designations
- Stacking
- Coverage extensions triggering other coverage extensions





DAMAGES

- Wide-area catastrophe impact on business interruption losses
- Proving Damages
 - Evidentiary issues
 - Create a timeline



PROTECTION AND PRESERVATION OF PROPERTY

- **2.** To indemnify the Assured for any sum or sums which the Assured may be obligated to pay or incurs as expenses, on account of:
 - (a) Sue and Labor Expense arising from an Occurrence covered hereunder where in the event of an actual or imminent covered physical loss or physical damage to property not otherwise excluded, it shall be lawful and necessary for the Assured, his, its or their factors, servants and assigns to sue, labor and travel for, in and about the defense, safeguard and recovery of the insured property, or any part thereof

* * * * *

"Sue and Labor Expense" means expenses reasonably and necessarily incurred by the Assured for the preservation and protection of property covered under this policy.

Takeaways



TAKEAWAYS

- 1 hour of CLE credit
- 10 Tips for Handling Insurance Issues



Read the Policy.



- 1. Read the Policy.
- 2. Read the Policy. Again.



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- 2. Read the Policy. Again.
- 3. Loss Prevention Is Best, But Loss Mitigation Is the Next Best Thing.



- Read the Policy.
- 2. Read the Policy. Again.
- 3. Loss Prevention Is Best, But Loss Mitigation Is the Next Best Thing.
- It (Usually) Doesn't Hurt to Ask.



- 1. Read the Policy.
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- 3. Loss Prevention Is Best, But Loss Mitigation Is the Next Best Thing.
- 4. It (Usually) Doesn't Hurt to Ask.
- 5. Review New Policies When They Arrive.



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- 6. Additional Insured Status Treat the Coverage Like It Was Your Own.





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- 7. Keep the Policies.





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- 8. Comply with the Policy Coverage May Depend on it.
- 9. Never Assume There Is No Coverage.





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- Keep the Policies.
- 8. Comply with the Policy Coverage May Depend on it.
- Never Assume There Is No Coverage.
- 10. When You Think There Is No Coverage, Look for Another Route.







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