

MReBA Cover Notes --

A Publication of the [Massachusetts Reinsurance Bar Association](#)

Summer 2014

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Welcome!

On behalf of the Newsletter Committee, I hope you enjoy this summer 2014 issue of Cover Notes. This issue features content that is both varied and informative, including a note from MReBA President Mitchell King, an article on the highlights of MReBA's Third Annual Arbitrator Roundtable held earlier this year, a detailed update on the credit-for-reinsurance bill currently pending in the Massachusetts legislature, and a case note on a 2014 First Circuit decision interpreting the scope and applicability of an arbitration agreement.

We are also very excited to provide you with additional details about the Sixth Annual MReBA Symposium, scheduled for October 2, 2014. Please see the announcement in this issue for the program line-up, which promises to be an excellent one in keeping with years past.

We hope to see you this fall!

Jessica Park

Newsletter Co-Chair
Sugarman, Rogers, Barshak & Cohen, P.C.
park@srbc.com

A Note From the President

When Bill Erickson began calling in late 2007 proposing that we form a Massachusetts bar association focusing on reinsurance, I doubted that he could generate enough energy or enthusiasm to get a new organization off the ground. By 2009, Bill had recruited seven sponsoring firms and became the first President of the Massachusetts Reinsurance Bar Association, leading a talented and energized slate of officers and board members. Our first annual Fall Symposium set high marks for engaging and useful educational presentations by both MReBA members and industry experts.

MReBA

Massachusetts Reinsurance
Bar Association

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MReBA Calendar

Sixth Annual MReBA Symposium

October 2, 2014
Back Bay Harvard Club

MReBA Meetings (lunch is served)

September

September 10, 2014
12:30 p.m.
Edwards Wildman, 111
Huntington Avenue

October

October 8, 2014
12:30 p.m.
Day Pitney, One
International Place

November

November 19, 2014
12:30 p.m.
Prince Lobel, 100
Cambridge Street, Suite
2200

Events - General Interest

NFL Football Season Begins
September 4, 2014
Seattle, WA

CPCU General Society
Meeting

It is with great pleasure that I became the sixth MReBA president at our April 2014 Annual Meeting. Under prior leadership we have consistently grown our membership, have added sponsoring firms, and have increased industry membership and participation. One of our main goals this year will be to continue growing industry participation, thus helping assure our responsiveness to industry issues and needs.

Our regular meetings often include presentations by MReBA members on new case law developments or mini-seminars by industry experts or arbitrators on important reinsurance issues. Planning for the 2014 Annual Symposium is well under way and it will be another cutting-edge program that should not be missed. MReBA is a uniquely collegial forum for meeting clients, colleagues and competitors, whether at our regularly scheduled meetings, Annual Meeting and Cocktail Party, Annual Symposium, or as a member of the committees planning these events. We encourage anyone interested in becoming more involved with MReBA to contact any of the officers.

We look forward to your joining us in 2014 and 2015. And remember, at MReBA's cocktail parties no one's eyes will glaze over when you say you are in "reinsurance."

Best regards,

Mitchell King

MReBA President
Prince Lobel Tye LLP
mking@PrinceLobel.com

Please Join Us For the Sixth Annual MReBA Symposium Business Matters - Industry Trends in 2014

On behalf of the Symposium Committee, I am pleased to invite you to the Sixth Annual MReBA Symposium, which will take place on October 2, 2014 at the historic Harvard Club, 374 Commonwealth Avenue, Boston, Massachusetts. This year's theme, Business Matters, will focus on trends in the industry that will impact reinsurance now and in the future and features a first-rate lineup of reinsurance executives, claims professionals, brokers, and attorneys.

We are very excited to have as our Keynote Speaker Rob Hammesfahr, formerly of Swiss Re. Rob was a practicing attorney and partner at a number of firms, including Cozen O'Connor, before leaving private practice to become a reinsurance industry executive. Rob has authored two books on reinsurance, Reinsurance Claims (2004) and The Law of Reinsurance Claims (1994), which have become standards in the legal community. His insights into business trends, conflicts, and claims will be informative and thought provoking.

Following Rob's keynote address, two morning panel presentations will focus on developments in property and liability insurance and reinsurance and their expected impact on the industry. As always, we will provide lunch, which will be followed by a lively workshop discussion of the issues addressed by the morning panels. The workshop will get us all thinking and talking about how the industry trends will manifest themselves into reinsurance problems and what the potential solutions to those problems may be. Finally, our closing panel will feature a discussion of broker disputes, policy and treaty wordings, and placement trends.

A detailed agenda is below. Registration will be open shortly, and an announcement will follow soon with details on how to register.

September 20-23, 2014
Anaheim, CA

119th Annual NAMIC Claims Conference
September 21-24, 2014
National Harbor, MD

Bermuda in Boston Conference
September 22-25, 2014
Boston, MA

Fall NAIC Meetings
November 16-19, 2014
Washington, D.C.

Fall ARIAS Meetings
November 13-14, 2014
New York Hilton

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Enjoy the last weeks of summer. I look forward to seeing you this fall at the Symposium.

Best regards,

Bill Erickson

Symposium Chair

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[Seth V. Jackson](#)

Sixth Annual Symposium - Business Matters

Keynote Address

Rob Hammesfahr

Panel One - Current Trends in Property Reinsurance

John Phillips, Gen Re
Stephen Zera, AIG Property Casualty
Alex Henlin, Edwards Wildman Palmer LLP
Kristin Suga Heres, Zelle Hofmann Voelbel & Mason LLP

Panel Two - Hot Issues in Reinsurance for Liability Claims

Randal Leffelman, Munich Re
Bill Perry, Carter Perry Bailey LLP
Jason Verdone, The Hartford
Moderator: John Harding, Morrison Mahoney LLP

Lunch

Panel Three - Interactive Workshop

Panel Four - The Intermediary's Perspective: Placement Trends, Contract Wordings, Disputes and Other Notable Developments

John Chaplin, Compass Consulting; formerly of Guy Carpenter
Matt Stanwood, JLT Towers Re
David Macintosh, Aon Benfield
Michael Mullins, Day Pitney LLP
Moderator: Susan Hartnett, Sugarman, Rogers, Barshak & Cohen, P.C.

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Third Annual Arbitrator Roundtable Focuses On Making Arbitrations More Efficient

By [Alexander Henlin](#) & [Jessica Park](#)
Edwards Wildman Palmer LLP &
Sugarman, Rogers, Barshak & Cohen, P.C.

The Massachusetts Reinsurance Bar Association hosted its third annual Arbitrator Roundtable at the offices of Day Pitney LLP on March 12, 2014. ARIAS-certified arbitrators Sylvia Kaminsky and Barbara Murray facilitated a thought-provoking discussion among members and guests that frankly examined the positive and negative aspects of reinsurance arbitrations. The conversation ultimately turned to ways in which the process itself could be made more effective and the costs of arbitration better controlled.

To read this article in full, please click [here](#).

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Legislation Alert: Will Massachusetts Follow The Pack on Credit For Reinsurance?

By [Anne-Marie Regan](#)
Prince Lobel Tye LLP

The Massachusetts Legislature is currently considering an amendment to the state's credit-for-reinsurance statute, Massachusetts General Laws, Chapter 175, Section 20A. Massachusetts House Bill 4326, "An Act Relative to Credit for Reinsurance Requirements," is pending before the Massachusetts Senate Committee on Ways and Means. House Bill 4326 is a revised draft of House Bill 4030, which was passed by the House on July 31, 2014, with amendments, and was referred to the Senate Committee on Ways and Means on August 4, 2014. See H.R. 4030, 188th General Court (Mass. 2014); H.R. 4326, 188th General Court (Mass. 2014). This bill would ease the burden on foreign reinsurers currently securing their obligations to Massachusetts cedents with full collateral. Should the bill pass, Massachusetts will be more aligned with several other states, making reinsurance transactions - both domestic and foreign - more efficient and predictable.

To read this article in full, please click [here](#).

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Case Note: *Grand Wireless, Inc. v. Verizon Wireless, Inc.*, 748 F.3d 1 (1st Cir. 2014)

By [Jonathan Mutch](#)
Robins, Kaplan, Miller & Ciresi L.L.P.

A recent decision by the First Circuit, *Grand Wireless, Inc. v. Verizon Wireless, Inc.*, construed both the scope of an arbitration clause and the extent to which the clause could be invoked by a party who was not a signatory to the arbitration agreement in question. Though the parties' dispute itself was not reinsurance-related, the decision provides useful insight into the breadth with which arbitration clauses are interpreted in the First Circuit and the extent to which they may apply to non-signatories-concepts that certainly have relevance in a reinsurance arbitration setting.

To read this article in full, please click [here](#).

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Attention Members . . .

Please keep your contact information up-to-date at <http://www.mreba.org/members/index.php> including any job or e-mail changes. If you have any questions, you can contact Seth Jackson at sjackson@zelle.com.

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