Actuarial Standards Across Borders

Actuaries who practice internationally may need to navigate through a variety of laws and professional standards to comply with the requirements of all relevant jurisdictions of practice. In order to better understand international practice, the Academy’s Council on Professionalism sponsored its first webcast in 2009, “How Do Actuarial Standards Apply Across Borders?”

The webcast, co-sponsored by the American Society of Pension Professionals and Actuaries, Casualty Actuarial Society, Conference of Consulting Actuaries, and Society of Actuaries, drew over 250 registrants and discussed methods that may be used to determine which jurisdiction’s actuarial standards of practice and qualifications may apply to an actuary’s work.

Speakers on the webcast included Curtis Huntington, chairperson of the Actuarial Board of Counseling and Discipline and a mathematics professor at the University of Michigan; Mary Frances Miller, chairperson of the International Actuarial Association’s Education Committee and a senior consulting actuary with Select Actuarial Services in Nashville, Tenn.; and moderator Sheila Kalkunte, Academy assistant general counsel.

As the presenters explained, defining international practice can be difficult and depends on a combination of factors, including the jurisdiction where the work was intended to be relied upon, the jurisdiction whose laws and standards the actuary referred to in completing the work product, and the stated purpose of the work product.

The group covered issues related to Precepts 2 and 3 of the Code of Professional Conduct for U.S. actuaries, including sections relevant to defining international practice, as well as the International Actuarial Association’s Principles for Codes of Professional Conduct and the cross-border agreement between the five U.S. actuarial organizations and the Canadian Institute of Actuaries.

Academy members can view the archived version of the webcast, as well as the speakers’ slides. For more background, interested actuaries can also read Huntington’s recent article “I’m an International Actuary?” that appeared in the March/April issue of Contingencies.

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Disciplinary Notice

The Disciplinary Committee of the American Academy of Actuaries (the Academy), acting in accordance with the Academy’s bylaws and under recommendation from the Actuarial Board for Counseling and Discipline, hereby expels Charles M. Lederman from membership. His activities relating to Physicians Insurance Company from 1987 to 1996 demonstrated a material violation of Sections 1 (a) and (c) of the Academy’s Guides to Professional Conduct in effect during these years and of Precept 1 of the Academy’s Code of Professional Conduct in effect during these years.

The Academy’s Guides to Professional Conduct (revised in 1984 and in effect through 1991) provided, in part,

- Sec. 1 (a) The member will act in a manner to uphold the dignity of the actuarial profession and to fulfill its responsibility to the public.

- Sec. 1 (c) The member will not provide actuarial service for or associate professionally with any person or organization where there is an evident possibility that such service or association may be used in a manner that is contrary to the public interest or the interest of the profession or in a manner to evade the law.

The Academy’s Code of Professional Conduct (in effect from 1992 and beyond 1996) provided, in part,

- Precept 1. An actuary shall act honestly and in a manner to uphold the reputation of the actuarial profession and to fulfill the profession’s responsibility to the public.

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Casualty Briefs

Sarah McNair-Grove, an actuary for the Alaska Division of Insurance in Juneau, and Franco Lepera, an actuary with North American Specialty Insurance Co. in Manchester, NH., have joined the Academy’s Property and Casualty Risk Based Capital Committee.

Health Briefs

Laurel Kastrup, senior manager for KPMG in Dallas, and Lawrence Scott, consulting actuary for Actuarial Risk Management in Austin, Texas, have joined the Academy’s State Long-Term Care Principle-Based Work Group.

Timothy Luedtke, principal and consulting actuary for Navigator Benefit Solutions in Berwyn, Pa., has joined the Academy’s Federal Health Committee.