

ACBA Lawyer Insurance Committee

2010-2011 Year-End Report

Submitted by: Amy J. Coco

Please accept this report as the ACBA Lawyer Insurance Committee Annual Report for the 2010-2011 time period.

The primary mission of the Lawyer Insurance Committee is to receive and evaluate information and make recommendations to the Board regarding the administration of the various insurance programs endorsed by or made available to members of the Allegheny County Bar Association. In this regard, we work in close consultation with the ACBA's broker, USI Affinity. The largest programs provided are the health insurance and lawyer's professional liability insurance. However, the Bar also endorses numerous other insurance programs as member benefits.

This year, the Committee held meetings to review the status of insurance programs and the broker and/or insurers presented overviews and answered regarding the medical program and the professional liability program. In addition, the Chair of the Committee, the Vice Chair of the Committee, and/or selected other members of the Committee have met with representatives of the Bar and/or its broker, USI, and/or the Lawyers Professional Liability insurer, Swiss Re, in connection with the administration of the endorsed insurance programs. The committee received and studied various reports and information (confidential in nature).

In 2010-2011, we have primarily considered and discussed the Highmark renewals and treatment of our members during its transition to a for-profit entity. Beginning in 2010, some members experienced significant health insurance premium increases as a result of Highmark's decision to move their "Small

Group" book of health insurance from their non-profit Highmark Company, to their new Highmark Health Insurance Company, a for-profit subsidiary, which was not regulated by the Pennsylvania Insurance Department and allowed Highmark to medically underwrite the premiums for new business. In an effort to address those member concerns, the committee chair and ACBA President Gary Hunt provided testimony, and also solicited our affected members to testify, before the House Insurance Committee during two days of public hearings on Highmark's health insurance premium increases. In the past year, as well, the committee has also begun investigating the market and how the bar and the committee can continue to provide benefit and assistance to the bar members in 2014 when the Health Care Reform bill takes full effect.