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A Message from the President **Vendettas, Private Detectives, Blackmail and... Kevin McCarty**

By Philip S. Yanan, IIASF President



This month's article features everything that you have come to expect from your president's monthly contribution – vendettas, blackmail, private detectives, illegal wiretaps, and more.

The key players in this story are our very own Kevin McCarty, and Charles David Wood Jr., owner of Texas-based Dallas National Insurance Co., and Bankers Insurance.

This sordid tale begins in the mid-1990's when Kevin McCarty was a regulator with the Florida Department of Insurance and was working as the agency liaison with the state's Property and Casualty Joint Underwriting Association.

Bankers Insurance had a \$16 Million contract to administer all of the claims for the JUA and the contract was under review. Apparently, McCarty and Bankers did not have a very amicable working relationship. In an attempt to gather incriminating evidence about McCarty's personal life and get him ousted from the position,

Bankers hired a private detective who tailed McCarty to parties and bars, obtained his personal banking records, and illegally tapped McCarty's home phone. At the time, McCarty stated in a deposition that he believed Bankers was trying to blackmail him.

Bankers lost the contract and McCarty sued them, receiving a \$2.5 Million settlement in 2000.

Then, in 2001 Charles David Wood Jr. entered the picture. He agreed to loan Bankers \$5 Million to secure workers compensation insurance for a staffing company that he owned. The deal fell through, but Wood accused McCarty of singling him out because of his connection to Bankers.

Since 2006, Wood has been trying to secure a license for Dallas National Insurance to write workers comp insurance here in Florida. So far, his applications have all been declined.

In January, Wood filed suit in federal court claiming that he is the victim of a personal vendetta waged by Insurance Commissioner Kevin McCarty. Wood contends that McCarty has refused to grant Dallas National a certificate because of Wood's connection to Bankers 10 years ago.

McCarty's office denies the allegations of a vendetta, citing a pattern of suspect business dealings by Wood that expose the state to unpaid claims and potential bailouts. Not surprisingly, McCarty's office wants the suit dismissed.

At the same time Wood filed his lawsuit against McCarty's office, oral arguments were taking place in Dallas National's appeal challenging OIR's refusal to grant it a license. The appellate court sided with OIR.

Stay tuned as this exciting drama continues to unfold!

I used the following resources to help me write this article:

The Insurance Journal: <http://bit.ly/gBX1A1>

The Herald-Tribune: <http://bit.ly/hI8Ri5>

This article from PropertyCasualty360.com is a little more recent and has some interesting background on Dallas National: <http://bit.ly/hFtlx4>



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Upcoming Events



May 5, 2011

IIASF Annual Big I Day & Cinco de Mayo Celebration

International Links Golf Course, Miami, Florida
Information and Registration available online at www.iasf.com

June 10 2011 **IIASF Annual Lunch at the FAIA Convention**
Guest Speaker - Kyle Ulrich of FAIA
With an update on the 2011 Legislative Session

Mark Your Calendars Now!

August 10th: Three Hour CE by Meade Collinworth and Membership Luncheon

September 22nd: Annual Installation of Officers & Directors

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2011 Legislative Fly-In Review

On March 16th and 17th a group from South Florida visited Legislators on your behalf at the Annual FAIA Fly-in. IIASF as usual had a strong presence with current board members, past presidents and members. With eighteen meetings scheduled and eight issues to discuss with the legislators, it was a very busy and very productive two days.



Are you up to date on the issues? Have you read the three hundred worders?
They are available online at www.fuia.com

The Legislative Session will be wrapping up soon. On Friday, June 10th at the [FAIA Convention](#), IIASF will hold their Membership Luncheon at 12:00 noon at the Rosen Shingle Creek Hotel in the St. Johns 33/34 room. Please join us for a Legislative Session Update by FAIA's Kyle Ulrich.



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Mature Agents Wallop Young Agents in Softball Embarrassment

By Philip S. Yanan, IIASF President



On March 29th the quasi-annual Young Agents vs. Mature Agents softball game was held at Tropical Park. The event had been on hiatus for a couple of years because the Young Agents were exploring kickball as an alternative spring-time diversion.

However, the mature agents were ready this year so we threw down the softball gauntlet and the Young Agents accepted.

Well, they regretted that decision. In a shocking defeat – an embarrassment really – the mercy rule was applied at the end of the 5th inning when the Mature Agents were leading the Young Agents by a score of 20 to zero. As proud as I was of my mature team, I really felt bad for those poor, youthful agents who just couldn't hit a ball, catch a ball, or run in the right direction.

I thought that Miami had a strong baseball tradition. Maybe it skipped a generation. I understand that the ball is a little bit bigger, but really. I guess kids today just don't play ball like they used to.

Phil Lyons shocked everyone by hitting 2 grand slam home runs. It was a truly impressive display by your President-elect. And when **Tom Dorsey** scaled the backstop and leapt into the air to catch a fly ball, securing the final out of the game and sealing our victory, I was truly inspired.

Unfortunately, the camera had run out of batteries...

Of course, most of what you have read so far is a fabrication. What really happened is that the Young Agents didn't show up to play. Apparently, it was little rainy that afternoon. Since it doesn't rain much in South Florida, I could understand how that may scare off some people – especially young, 20-something insurance professionals who are in great shape and full of vigor.

In conference with **Tony Martely**, our official umpire/scorekeeper for the day, it was determined that failure to attend constituted a forfeiture on the part of the Young Agents, handing an official victory to the Mature Agents. Victory is sweet!

I would also like to take this opportunity to announce that the Mature Agents are officially retiring from any and all insurance-related softball events. We won without pulling any hamstrings or tearing any rotator cuffs. Why push our luck? It feels good to go out on top!



What's that Young Agents? You would like to challenge us to a face-saving 3-mile foot race at the Corporate Run on April 28th? Sorry... we're busy!

Also, I have a black Easton baseball mitt at my house if someone forgot it. Email me at pyanan@wwfins.com.

And as always, thanks to our sponsors – [Gabor Insurance](#) and [Fidelity Property and Casualty](#) – for making the event possible!



 <p>LANDERS-STEIN & Associates, Inc. <i>Serving South Florida Since 1960</i></p>	<p>Join us at Big I Day May 5th for Golf & Our Cinco de Mayo Celebration! Info & To Register: www.iiasf.com!</p>	 <p>JOHN HANDEL & ASSOCIATES INC.</p>
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Interactive Dinner, March 9, 2011**





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