

PROTECTION AGAINST TECHNOLOGY RISKS: IS TRADITIONAL INSURANCE ADEQUATE?

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Agenda

- What is Covered by Traditional Insurance?
- Additional Insured Status
- Specialty Coverages
- Checklist for Insurance Clauses
- Lawyers' Duty to Advise Clients



Traditional Types of Insurance

- Commercial General Liability (CGL)
- Errors & Omissions (E&O)
- Comprehensive Property and Casualty
- Automobile
- Workers Compensation
- Employee Fidelity



Insurance Principles

- First Party or Third Party
- Occurrence v. Claims Made Trigger
- Coverage for Indemnity and Defense
 - Defense applies at outset
 - Defense broader than indemnity
 - Defense may be on top of policy limits



Coverage Provided: CGL

- Third Party Liability Arising Out Of:
 - Bodily Injury
 - Property Damage
 - Personal and Advertising Injury



Property Damage

- Property damage includes:
 - Physical injury to tangible property, and
 - Loss of use of tangible property that is not physically injured
- Software or data generally deemed to be intangible property



Personal and Advertising Injury

- **CGL** Policy (ISO 2001 Form) Covers:
 - Injury
 - Caused by an "Offence", Including
 - Slander or Libel
 - Violation of a Person's Right of Privacy
 - Infringement of Copyright, Trade Dress or Slogan in your Advertisement
 - Committed in the Course of Advertising your Goods, Products or Services.



Three Steps to Coverage

- Is there advertising activity?
- Is there an advertising injury offense?
- ◆ Is there a causal nexus between the advertising activity and the offense?



Exclusions: Advertising Injury

- Knowing Violation of Rights of Another
- Material Published with Knowledge of Falsity
- Material Published Prior to Policy Period
- Liability Assumed in a Contract
- Liability Arising out of Breach of Contract
- Infringement of Copyright, Patent, Trademark or Trade Secret
- Insureds in Media and Internet Type Business
- Electronic Chatrooms or Bulletin Boards
- Unauthorized Use of Another's Name or Product



Other Problems of Coverage

- Must be the insured's advertising activity
- Trademark infringement not specifically listed, but may fall within:
 - Misappropriation of style of doing business
 - Infringement of title or slogan
- Coverage trigger for "Invasion of Privacy" typically dissemination, not gathering
- Patent infringement typically not covered



CGL Exclusions By Endorsement

Programming errors

Contract performance disputes

Professional services liability

Computer Software

Electronic Data Processing





Coverage Provided: E&O

- Third party liability arising out of
 - a negligent act, error or omission
 - in the performance of the insured's professional services
- Examples:
 - Failure of product to perform its function
 - Failure to perform services per contract



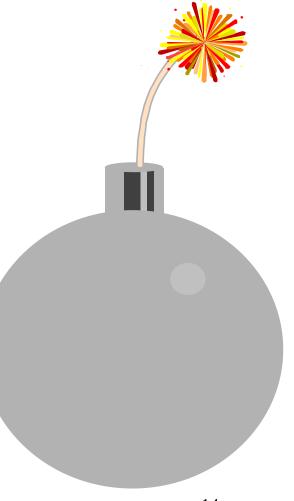
Defenses to E&O Coverage

- Non-negligent error
- Meaning of "professional services"
 - Liability must arise out of special risks inherent in the practice of the profession
 - Interpreting relationship as "sale of goods" would bar coverage (dominant purpose test)
- Often applies only to consequential damages (i.e., loss of income due to failure)



Defenses to E&O Coverage

- Economic loss doctrine
 - Applies to "tort" malpractice claims
 - Requires third party damage to person or property
- Exclusion for damage to tangible property
- Express warranty exclusion





Common Endorsements to E&O

- Intellectual property infringement
 - Infringement of patent, copyright, trademark, trade name, trade dress, trade secret, and any other intellectual property
- Computer virus
 - Unauthorized access to electronic systems
 - Damage caused by computer viruses and worms



Checklist for Insurance Clauses

- Vendor Maintains Insurance for:
 - General Liability
 - Professional Errors and Omissions
 - Intellectual Property Infringement
 - Defamation and Privacy
 - Other Traditional Insurance
- Licensee Maintains Insurance for:
 - General Liability, Property
 - Business Interruption



Checklist for Insurance Clauses

- Contractual Indemnification
- Spell out Types of Risks
- Primary and noncontributory
- Name Licensee as Additional Insured
 - Licensee to Approve Amount and Companies
 - 30-Day Notice of Cancellation or Change
- Provide Evidence of Insurance
 - Right to Obtain Insurance, Charge Vendor
 - Provide Replacement or Renewal Coverage



Lawyers' Duty to Advise Clients

- Possibility of Insurance Coverage
- Place Insurers on Notice of Claims
 - Darby & Darby v. VSI International (N.Y. Ct. App. 2000)
 - Jordache Enterprises v. Brobeck Phleger & Harrison (Cal. Supr. 1998)





Questions?

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21st Century Risks and Age-Old Insurance Clauses:

Negotiating Insurance Provisions in IT Contracts

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