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MCOWEN HONORED AT NEW YORK INSURANCE ASSOCIATION ANNUAL CONFERENCE

BOLTON LANDING, N.Y.—The New York Insurance Association, Inc. (NYIA) honored Wayne E. McOwen, ARM, PLC, senior vice president of government affairs and industry relations for GUARD Insurance Group with NYIA’s 2009 Chair’s Distinguished Service Award at the association’s annual conference on May 28 in Bolton Landing, N.Y.

McOwen has served on the NYIA Board of Directors for the past nine years, including for two years in 2006 and 2007, as chair of the association. He has served on various NYIA committees, including public relations, PAC and workers’ compensation and was instrumental in the formation of the foundation affiliated with NYIA—the New York Insurance Scholarship Foundation, Inc.

“Wayne is a champion for not only NYIA, but the entire industry,” NYIA board chair and American International Group, Inc. director of state relations, Cecilia E. Norat said. “He is a true advocate for property and casualty insurers and is a big believer in giving back. Wayne brings a wealth of experience and insight to the association. NYIA is fortunate to have such an active and engaged member among our leadership.”

McOwen has served GUARD for over 20 years. He is responsible for leading the company’s regulatory, legislative and industry affairs activities. He is actively involved in the process on many different levels, including participation on many key industry boards and committees, as well as in his capacities as a registered lobbyist. McOwen is based out of GUARD’s Washington D.C. office. He previously served as vice president of a Vermont-based captive management company and performed related duties as production manager of an affiliated retail insurance agency. He spent the first decade of his insurance career with Commercial Union and rose to the position of Connecticut Branch Manager before leaving to become vice president/partner of Reynolds, McOwen, & Smith, Inc., a retail insurance agency located in South Florida.

In addition to his affiliation with NYIA, McOwen’s professional involvements include serving on the boards (and as past chair) of the New York Compensation Insurance Rating Board (NYCIRB), the Pennsylvania Compensation Rating Bureau (PCRB) Board and the Delaware Compensation Rating Bureau (DCRB) Board. He is also a current member of the NJ CRIB governing committee and a member of the Board of Governors of the National Workers’ Compensation Reinsurance Pool. He is past chair of the District of Columbia Insurance Federation (DCIF), serves as a Massachusetts Insurance Federation, Inc. board member, and has been active in a variety of committees of the Property Casualty Insurers Association of America (PCI): past chair of the Workers’ Compensation Committee; the Washington Reps Issues Strategy Committee; the Solvency Committee; Legal and Government Affairs Committee; and the Terrorism Risk Alternatives Task Force. He is a former member of the board of the Maryland Property & Casualty Insurance Guaranty Corporation and a past member of the ad hoc Steering Committee of the Workers’ Compensation Terrorism Pool Working Group and initiated the Terrorism Information and Education Study Group (TIES). He is a current member of the board of directors of Strategic Services on Unemployment and Workers’

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Compensation (UWC), a national business advocacy association, and is a member of the Insurance Federation of New York (IFNY). McOwen is a past member of the board of the Insurance Education Council (IEC) of the National Council of Insurance Legislators (NCOIL) and is a member of the Pennsylvania House Whip's Regional Advisory Council. He is active with the American League of Lobbyists (ALL) in Washington, D.C.

A graduate of the University of Miami with a bachelor's degree in business administration, McOwen pursued graduate studies at Suffolk College in Boston. He attained an Associate in Risk Management (ARM) designation through the Insurance Institute of America and the Professional Lobbyist Certification (PLC) designation through the American League of Lobbyists (ALL). He is an alumnus of the Center for Creative Leadership in Greensboro, North Carolina, and of Leadership Pennsylvania, a selective program through which participants explore statewide political, social, and economic issues.

The New York Insurance Association (NYIA[®]) is a state trade association that has represented the property and casualty insurance industry for over 125 years. For more information on NYIA, visit www.nyia.org.

GUARD Insurance Group is a Pennsylvania-based carrier that specializes in providing secure coverage to small- and medium-sized businesses across the country. For more information on GUARD, visit www.guardinsurancegroup.com.