

SPECIAL ISSUE

**CONGRATULATIONS TREASURED
POLICYHOLDERS**

LMIC CELEBRATES 30 YEARS!

We thank our policyholders, employees and producers for their unfailing support and dedication. With this continued support, LMIC enters into its 30th year (and 13 dividends later...) with great expectations.

LMIC's reputation is one of its greatest strengths. Its service and high ethical standards are the cornerstones of that reputation. Our reputation is based on the honesty and integrity that we have demonstrated over a period of three decades. This public viewpoint is due to the employees and producers solving the policyholders' problem and satisfying their needs. LMIC operates entirely through the people it employs and producers it recognizes. The responsibility for LMIC's success and longevity rests with those individuals. This group of professionals has contributed to the high ethical standards of LMIC and continues to enhance its reputation in the legal and insurance communities.

We look forward to another thirty years of unparalleled success.

Sincerely,

Lawyers' Mutual Insurance Company

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For all the right reasons...we made history!

**30 YEARS OF
HARD-EARNED WISDOM**

Self-reflection and reminiscence are hallmarks of celebrating a milestone. As we reflect upon our 30 year history, we decided to draw from the hard-earned wisdom of our 30-year policyholders¹. We trust you'll enjoy their insights, as they ponder one of the most complicated relationships – the one between that “jealous mistress”, the practice of law and lawyers. Here's some of their insights.

Q: What has been the most rewarding aspect of practicing law (and why)?

~Meeting lots of people that are in troubled situations and being able to help them (usually).

– S. Cooperrider

~Criminal appeal wins.

– Name withheld

~As a family law attorney, I feel I have had an opportunity to impact people's lives for the better, and helped them grow as independent people, as better parents, and with self esteem for their ability to succeed in their future life.

– S. J. Morris

~For me the most rewarding aspect of my practice is helping people to solve significant problems in their lives by providing advice and when appropriate, by using the tools provided by the law. As a small town,

¹In acknowledgement of their loyalty to Lawyers' Mutual and their dedication to the practice of law, we surveyed policyholders who have been continuously insured with Lawyers' Mutual since our inception in 1978. Some insureds wished to share their thoughts, but, not be publicly credited; in those cases, we have noted – “name withheld”.

general practice lawyer I see (mostly) good people who have become burdened by a conflict or other problem they are unable to understand or solve. Helping to get through that problem is the best part of practicing law.

– Name withheld

~Ability to be self employed and help clients.

– Name withheld

~Private international law, advising primarily European clients who do business with (contracts) or in (subsidiaries) the US allows me to enjoy an essentially European lifestyle while responding to legal and commercial challenges. As the first in my family born in the US, I was raised speaking several languages, often discussing business, and my practice in many ways is an evolution of my education.

– Name withheld

~Helping people. Making the world a better place - one family at a time.

– G. Zumbrunn

Q: What has been the most challenging aspect of practicing law (and why)?

~Getting lawyers to accept technology that would mutually benefit us.

– Name withheld

~Trying to get to the truth of matters so that a reasonable disposition, whether by settlement or litigation, is possible. There is so much distortion by both clients and counsel, and so much jockeying for position, that the ability to reach a reasonable settlement at a relatively early stage of a case is frustratingly compromised.

– S. J. Morris

~As a general practitioner the most challenging aspect is to keep current and stay competent in a number of specific areas of the law. A second challenge is to maintain an appropriate professional detachment so that my advice and judgment is not affected by sympathy for the client.

– Name withheld

~Having cases with clients when I know I'm not going to be able to satisfy what they want.

– S. Cooperrider

~Keeping current with changes in the law. Need to read more publications.

– Name withheld.

~The administration of a small law office, including collections, can't be anyone's favorite hobby!

– Name withheld

~Dealing with the occasional judge who is too lazy, biased or intellectually deficient to understand the law! Thankfully that is a rare occurrence, but still a frustrating reality.

– C. Lampe

Q: What has been the most significant change in the practice of law over the past 30 years?

~For me, the most significant change has been computer assisted legal research which allows me to research even fairly arcane issues thoroughly and efficiently. Practicing in a small office and in a county with a somewhat limited law library, I have found computerized research to be an "equalizer" that allows small firm practitioners to litigate effectively against large firms.

– Name withheld.

~In family law which I mostly practice, there are a lot more self-represented parties because they can't afford attorneys.

– S. Cooperrider

~Probably the electronic revolution, making it easier to communicate with opposing counsel and the courts.

– D. Marchant

~Increasing complexity owing to new laws and changes in old laws.

– Name withheld

~Technology accelerated and led to "real time" expectations demands of clients and opposing counsel. It's exhausting.

– Name withheld.

~Less cooperation for the best interests of the client.

– G. Zumbrunn

~From the attorney side of the equation, it is the decline of ethics amongst attorneys. Attorneys lie, they refuse to do what they must do, they file papers late on a continuing basis, they call into court and ask for second call at the last minute, causing you to sit around and wait. On the trial court side, the new judges are not prepared to be judges. As we have lost the municipal court system, there is no training ground with lesser complicated cases.

– Name withheld.

Q: What advice would you give to attorneys that are just starting out, that you wish you had been told when you began practice?

~Your reputation is the most valuable asset of your practice. Do the best job you can do on each and every matter - - no matter how seemingly trivial - - and the rest will take care of itself.

– Name withheld.

~If you are in sole practice, sign up for training programs that are available. Some public service agencies need volunteers, and that is a good way to get experience with a mentor who is always available. Some of these groups have training classes and excellent manuals. The practice of law is more complicated today than 30 years ago and you can not learn to swim by jumping into the ocean. You need someone to help you.

– Name withheld.

~Learn how to do the “business” of law as well as becoming a good lawyer.

– L. Lawless

~There are a lot of ways to practice law, and if you’re not happy with the niche that you are in, keep looking for something that works for you.

– S. Cooperrider

~Good idea to specialize in certain areas of law of interest to me and not try to practice in too many areas of law.

– Name withheld

~(I was told this, but at 25-30 years old it doesn’t seem to mean very much, rather obvious) Life is not a straight line of ever increasing success. Some years will be bad for no good reason (and vice versa). It is possible we will not be measured by the magnitude of our greatest success, but how we responded to and bounced back from our greatest failures and setbacks.

– Name withheld

~Enjoy your life and job (or change it!)

– C. Lampe

~Do the best job that you can, but the client’s problems are not your problems, don’t get personally involved.

– G. Zumbrunn

Q: Why have you stayed with Lawyers’ Mutual for the past 30 years?

~From the start, I liked the idea of lawyers solving their “malpractice insurance crisis” by forming their own company. I also think it is very advantageous to be insured by a company that does not engage in other kinds of business because we don’t have to worry about the company deciding to pursue other lines that may be more lucrative. Finally, I have had several claims over the years and on each occasion felt that the company handled the claim appropriately and in a sympathetic and helpful way. I realize that we could probably have saved more money by switching to other companies but feel that it’s well worthwhile to pay a slightly higher premium in order to support such a good company.

– Name withheld.

~Loyalty, good price, good service.

– Name withheld

~I trust their responsibility to the legal professionals they insure.

– S. J. Morris

~The best company owing to reasonable rates and good input for me as to avoiding legal problems. LMIC books, seminars and other publications.

– Name withheld

~No reason to leave. It seems to satisfy my needs.

– Name withheld

~Good services.

– L. Lawless

~It does not seem to me to be an outfit that is in it for the money.

– D. Marchant

~I like the fact that it’s a not for profit company, and it’s been stable.

– S. Cooperrider

~I love the concept of a mutual insurance company, especially when the dividends arrive annually from a well managed company like LMIC. I think your CLE program is tremendous and wish all my other insurance companies, especially my health related insurance companies, behaved as well as LMIC.

– Name withheld

Introducing

**Professor LMIC (pronounced 'lim-ick')...
New MCLE Seminars available at www.lmic.com**



Once again LMIC brings its members the most up to date information regarding the latest hot topics in the law affecting lawyers. In this 3 hour ethics program, Bill Baughman and Steve Lewis will discuss recent developments in the case law, statutes, rules and ethics opinions that have an impact on your expanding professional responsibilities. You will receive an in-depth examination of some of the key rules of professional conduct through a discussion of important case developments, as well as recent State Bar and local ethics opinions. Available online at

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HOT TOPIC CONFLICTS OF INTEREST AND
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(.75 hr Legal Ethics)

NEW

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