





Recession and recovery:
The impact on lawyers' professional liability
exposures

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**Paper** titled "Recession and Recovery: The impact on lawyers' professional liability exposures"



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**Recording** of today's webinar





## **Today's Moderator**



**David Bradford-** President, Research & Editorial Group, Advisen Ltd.







Justin Camara
Senior Vice President, Professional Liability
Aspen Insurance



Jason White
Managing Director, Professional Services Group
Swett & Crawford



Frances O'Meara
Partner
Thompson Coe







Justin Camara
Senior Vice President, Professional Liability
Aspen Insurance

Justin Camara joined Aspen in January of 2010 and is a Senior Vice President in the Professional Liability Department. He is responsible for managing the Accountants Professional Liability and Lawyers Professional Liability programs. Currently based in San Francisco, Justin has over 17 years of experience dedicated to underwriting these segments. Justin's previous work history includes opening the professional liability operations for Tamarack American (a division of Great American Insurance Co.) and Liberty International Underwriters (a division of Liberty Mutual Group) in San Francisco. Justin began his career with AIG, underwriting professional liability in New York.







Jason White

Managing Director, Professional Services Group

Swett & Crawford

Mr. White heads the Swett & Crawford Professional Services Practice Group. He was the first broker in the company to form a group dedicated to providing specialty resources in specific coverage areas to our retail broker clients. The success of that unit was instrumental in Swett developing a Practice Group structure, the platform on which it now services and expands its business.

Mr. White has been with Swett & Crawford for over 21 years and is the highest producer across all practice groups with a book of over \$95MM in premium. He is a multi-year recipient of the "Broker of the Year-Award of Excellence". He has also a received the Chairman's Award for highest production for the 6 years it has been awarded.

Prior to joining Swett & Crawford, Jason began his career at Marsh & McLennan's FINPRO unit in London, England where he worked in the Lloyd's market.





Frances O'Meara
Partner
Thompson Coe

Frances M. O'Meara is a nationally recognized professional malpractice attorney who concentrates her practice in errors and omissions defense for attorneys, accountants, architects, insurance agents, real estate brokers, and appraisers. Frances is certified by the California State Bar as a Certified Legal Malpractice Specialist. She advises professionals and law firms on legal professional and ethical issues, and issues relating to risk management and loss control.

Frances works directly with major insurance carriers throughout the United States, non-insured attorneys, large corporations, and financial institutions. She has extensive experience in D&O claims, commercial litigation, with an emphasis on fidelity, fiduciary and surety claims investigation and litigation.

Frances also has experience in the area of employment litigation, including discrimination claims, employment contracts, and retaliation and sexual harassment claims.

Before joining Thompson Coe & O'Meara, Frances was a Managing Partner of the O'Meara Law Group and a Managing Partner of the Los Angeles office of Kaufman Dolowich Voluck & Gonzo, LLP, where she also served as the Chair of KDVG's Diversity Committee.



### Why are economic downturns often accompanied by an uptick in LPL claims?



Dave Bradford- Advisen Ltd.



Justin Camara
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Professional Liability
Aspen Insurance



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Partner
Thompson Coe





### What types of LPL claims have been experienced by firms at the center of the credit crisis?



Dave Bradford- Advisen Ltd.



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Professional Liability
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Professional Services Group
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Partner
Thompson Coe





### What are some of the common allegations related to real estate transaction claims?



Dave Bradford- Advisen Ltd.



Justin Camara
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Professional Liability
Aspen Insurance



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Managing Director,
Professional Services Group
Swett & Crawford



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Partner
Thompson Coe





### What other practice areas were especially affected by the credit crisis and recession?



Dave Bradford- Advisen Ltd.



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Partner
Thompson Coe





#### How were law firms themselves affected by the recession?



Dave Bradford- Advisen Ltd.



Justin Camara
Senior Vice President,
Professional Liability
Aspen Insurance



Jason White
Managing Director,
Professional Services Group
Swett & Crawford



Frances O'Meara
Partner
Thompson Coe





#### The recession is over, but claim activity remains elevated. Why?



Dave Bradford- Advisen Ltd.



Justin Camara
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Professional Liability
Aspen Insurance



Jason White
Managing Director,
Professional Services Group
Swett & Crawford



Frances O'Meara Partner Thompson Coe





#### How does lateral hiring affect LPL exposures?



Dave Bradford- Advisen Ltd.



Justin Camara
Senior Vice President,
Professional Liability
Aspen Insurance



Jason White
Managing Director,
Professional Services Group
Swett & Crawford



Frances O'Meara
Partner
Thompson Coe





#### Why are settlement values up?



Dave Bradford- Advisen Ltd.



Justin Camara
Senior Vice President,
Professional Liability
Aspen Insurance



Jason White
Managing Director,
Professional Services Group
Swett & Crawford



Frances O'Meara
Partner
Thompson Coe





## How are factors such as offshore legal services, more savvy customers, information technology, etc. influencing LPL exposures?



Dave Bradford- Advisen Ltd.



Justin Camara
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Professional Liability
Aspen Insurance



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Professional Services Group
Swett & Crawford



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Partner
Thompson Coe





#### What are some effective risk management steps?



Dave Bradford- Advisen Ltd.



Justin Camara
Senior Vice President,
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Aspen Insurance



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Professional Services Group
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Partner
Thompson Coe





### What are some of the key issues to keep in mind when buying LPL insurance?



Dave Bradford- Advisen Ltd.



Justin Camara
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Professional Liability
Aspen Insurance



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Managing Director,
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Swett & Crawford



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### How to reach us:

Advisen Ltd.

1430 Broadway 8<sup>th</sup> Floor New York, NY 10018

corner.www.advisen.com

Voice: +1.212.897.4800

advisenevents@advisen.com



