



National Flood Insurance Team

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## Stradley Ronon's National Flood Insurance Team

In the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina, and amidst the chaos in coastal communities in Louisiana, Mississippi and Alabama, Stradley Ronon attorneys were called upon to defend almost 500 flood insurance claims against a national "Write-Your-Own" (WYO) program carrier. The firm took the lead in successfully resolving each of the claims by way of dispositive motions or settlement on good terms, without once having to incur the significant expense or uncertainty of trial.

When major storms caused widespread flooding in southern and eastern Texas several years later, Stradley Ronon attorneys were again called upon to spearhead the defense of multiple suits in the federal district courts in Texas. Working closely with local counsel, Stradley Ronon attorneys took depositions and filed dispositive motions (only when necessary) and, in most cases, negotiated fair settlements with impacted WYO insureds.

And again, when Superstorm Sandy caused widespread devastation in coastal areas of New York and New Jersey, multiple WYO carriers retained Stradley Ronon to defend more than 600 insurance claims. Stradley's status as a leading firm in this space was also recognized by the New Jersey District Court, which selected several Stradley litigators from among the litany of counsel involved in Sandy-related litigation, to join a panel that developed training materials for mediators and arbitrators in preparation for hundreds of planned mediations and arbitrations in Sandy-related matters then pending before the Court.

Why have WYO carriers turned to Stradley Ronon so often in so many jurisdictions? When insurers hire Stradley Ronon to represent their interests, they get two important things: They get a team of experienced litigation attorneys with first-rate skills who will defend their interests at every turn, including trial, in the rare circumstance that it is necessary. And they also get lawyers who understand that the NFIP, as reiterated by FEMA time and again, is a program that puts policyholders first. For more than a decade, Stradley has vigorously defended WYO clients while, at the same time, always treating policyholders with fairness and respect.

Our litigation attorneys are backed by the firm's nationally recognized insurance practice group, which has counseled leading insurers, reinsurers and producers and handled a wide array of disputes on their behalf, including those relating to coverage issues. Relying upon this expertise, our attorneys have developed an unmatched knowledge of the rules and regulations governing the NFIP. This expertise has allowed our attorneys to successfully litigate coverage issues in multiple cases in both trial and appellate courts both locally and nationally. Indeed, Stradley Ronon litigators are held in such high regard by our peers and the courts that the Stradley Litigation Department was selected as the 2016 Litigation Department of the Year for midsize firms in Pennsylvania by the state's most prominent legal publication.

Stradley Ronon attorneys also enjoy an excellent working relationship with oversight counsel at FEMA. Given FEMA's increasingly active role in overseeing litigation strategy and settlement negotiations, this

relationship is increasingly important to our WYO clients. In the District of New Jersey and elsewhere, our attorneys communicate regularly with FEMA's litigation oversight attorneys in advance of court-ordered mediations and settlement conferences to discuss the strengths and weaknesses of each case, available settlement authority, and the strategies needed to resolve each case. This positive working relationship has allowed us to settle multiple cases in their early stages on fair terms that are mutually acceptable to property owners, the WYO carriers and FEMA.

Finally, Stradley Ronon has been selected as national counsel for WYO carriers because it has cultivated the local relationships needed to bring its expertise to bear on short notice anywhere in the United States. Stradley Ronon is a founding member of Meritas, a network of prequalified, high-quality independent law firms throughout the United States and around the world. Because Meritas has member firms in every state in the country, Stradley Ronon can retain quality local counsel without delay. Given our years of experience defending flood claims, we assume responsibility for providing the necessary training that allows local counsel to capably and efficiently assume their role while we assume primary responsibility for the successful defense of the claims.

**For more information on how Stradley can help you, contact:**

**Craig R. Blackman**

NFIP Team Leader

215.564.8041

cblackman@stradley.com

### About Stradley Ronon's Insurance Practice Group

For more than four decades, our nationally recognized insurance practice group has effectively counseled leading insurers, reinsurers and producers in litigation, claims, corporate and regulatory compliance matters. Since 1926, Stradley Ronon has helped private and public companies – from small businesses to Fortune 500 corporations – achieve their goals. With eight offices and more than 200 attorneys, Stradley Ronon is proud to help companies manage their legal challenges and grow their businesses.

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