

W. R. Berkley Corporation Names Christopher R. Rourke President of Berkley North Pacific

Released : 03/23/2017

GREENWICH, Conn.--(BUSINESS WIRE)-- **W. R. Berkley Corporation (NYSE:WRB)** today announced the appointment of Christopher R. Rourke as president of Berkley North Pacific (BNP), a Berkley Company. The appointment is effective immediately. He succeeds Jeffrey R. Dehn, a 40-year veteran who will retire following a management transition.

Mr. Rourke has over 25 years of experience in the property casualty insurance industry with significant expertise in both the financial and operational aspects of the business. He most recently served as Berkley North Pacific's senior vice president and chief operating officer and joined Berkley in 2010 as a regional vice president for Acadia. He holds a bachelor of science in business administration from Villanova University's School of Business.

Commenting on the appointment, W. Robert Berkley, Jr., president and chief executive officer of W. R. Berkley Corporation, said, "Jeff has done an outstanding job of profitably growing our business in the Pacific Northwest at BNP since it was established as an independent operating unit in 2009. We are thankful for his leadership and expertise, and we wish him all the best in his retirement. At the same time, we are fortunate to have Chris take the helm. His industry experience and tenure at Berkley will enable the unit to build upon its success and effect a seamless transition."

Berkley North Pacific provides local underwriting, claims and risk management services from its home office in Seattle, Washington and branch offices in Boise, Idaho, Portland, Oregon and Salt Lake City, Utah. It operates with a select group of agents in Washington, Oregon, Idaho, Montana and Utah to sell and service property and casualty policies for middle-market businesses and the specialty industries of agribusiness and construction. For further information about BNP and its products and services, please visit <http://berkleypac.com>.

Founded in 1967, W. R. Berkley Corporation is an insurance holding company that is among the largest commercial lines writers in the United States and operates worldwide in two segments of the property casualty insurance business: Insurance and Reinsurance. For further information about W. R. Berkley Corporation, please visit www.wrberkley.com.

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Source: W. R. Berkley Corporation