

## *W. R. Berkley Corporation Announces Executive Appointments at Continental Western Group and Berkley FinSecure*

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GREENWICH, Conn.--(BUSINESS WIRE)-- **W. R. Berkley Corporation (NYSE:WRB)** today announced the appointment of Michael A. Lex as president of Continental Western Group (CWG), a Berkley Company. Mr. Lex succeeds Michael G. Connor, who has been appointed president of Berkley FinSecure, a Berkley Company. The appointments are effective immediately.

Mr. Lex joins CWG with over 20 years of experience in the property casualty insurance industry and significant expertise in all aspects of distribution and underwriting management. He most recently served as senior vice president, commercial product/pricing, for a major U.S. insurer. A native of Iowa, he holds a bachelor of business administration from the University of Iowa and is a Chartered Property Casualty Underwriter.

Mr. Connor joined W. R. Berkley Corporation in 2012 as president of CWG and has over 30 years of experience in the property casualty insurance industry. He graduated with a B.A. from Colgate University and holds the Chartered Property Casualty Underwriter and Associate in Underwriting professional designations.

Commenting on the appointment, W. Robert Berkley, Jr., president and chief executive officer of W. R. Berkley Corporation, said, "We are pleased to welcome Mike Lex to our organization. He brings a wealth of experience in the regional property casualty insurance market to CWG that will enable us to continue to deliver value and opportunity to our independent agents. Similarly, Mike Connor's considerable experience and past achievements position him well to lead our efforts at Berkley FinSecure. We are delighted that he will take on this new role and are very fortunate to have such depth and versatility in our senior management team."

Continental Western Group is a Midwest regional property and casualty insurance operation based in Des Moines, Iowa, providing commercial underwriting, claims and risk management services across thirteen states from the Great Lakes to the Rocky Mountains. Berkley FinSecure provides customized, comprehensive insurance solutions and outstanding personalized service to financial institutions. Its Berkley Crime division provides crime related insurance products for commercial organizations, financial institutions and governmental entities. For further information about Continental Western Group, Berkley FinSecure or Berkley Crime, please visit <http://www.cwgins.com>, [www.berkleyfinsecure.com](http://www.berkleyfinsecure.com) or [www.berkeleycrime.com](http://www.berkeleycrime.com), respectively.

Celebrating 50 years, 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](http://www.wrberkley.com).

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