

Larry W. Jones
 Law Office of Jones & Garber
 An Insurance Company Law Division
 700 SW Higgins Avenue, Suite 108
 Missoula, MT 59803-1489
 (406) 543-2420
 (406) 829-3436 (FAX)
 Attorney for Respondent/Insurer Liberty Northwest Ins. Corp.

FILED

APR 1 8 2005

OFFICE OF
 WORKERS' COMPENSATION JUDGE
 HELENA, MONTANA

IN THE WORKERS' COMPENSATION COURT OF THE STATE OF MONTANA

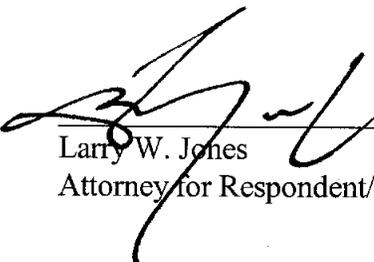
ALEXIS RAUSCH, et al.)	WCC No. 9907-8274R1
)	
Petitioners,)	
)	
vs.)	
)	EMPLOYERS INSURANCE OF
MONTANA STATE FUND,)	WAUSAU MUTUAL COMPANY'S
)	RESPONSE TO SUMMONS
Respondent/Insurer,)	
)	
and)	
)	
JEREMY RUHD,)	
)	
Petitioner,)	
)	
vs.)	
)	
LIBERTY NORTHWEST INSURANCE CORP.,)	
)	
Respondent/Insurer.)	

COMES NOW Employers Insurance of Wausau Mutual Company and responds to the Court's Summons. Employers Insurance of Wausau Mutual Company makes its appearance in this proceeding by this pleading.

In the Summons, Employers Insurance of Wausau Mutual Company is listed as an insurer required to respond. During a recent hearing Judge McCarter ruled Liberty Northwest Insurance Corporation could respond by referencing the undersigned's letter, attached, of November 23, 2004. Employers Insurance of Wausau Mutual Company makes the same response.

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DATED this 16 day of April, 2005.

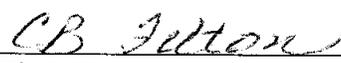


Larry W. Jones
Attorney for Respondent/Insurer

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I hereby certify that on the 16 day of April, 2005, I served the original of the foregoing EMPLOYERS INSURANCE OF WAUSAU MUTUAL COMPANY'S RESPONSE TO SUMMONS, by FAX (406) 444-7798 and first-class mail, postage prepaid, on the following:

Ms. Patricia J. Kessner
Clerk of Court
Workers' Compensation Court
P. O. Box 537
Helena, MT 59624-0537



Cindy Brown Felton

OFFICE OF JONES & GARBER

An Insurance Company Law Division

700 SW HIGGINS AVENUE, SUITE 108 • MISSOULA, MT 59803-1489
TELEPHONE 406-543-2433 • FACSIMILE 406-829-3436

Larry W. Jones
406-543-2433
Larry.Jones@llawoffice.com

Carrie L. Garber
406-543-2434
Carrie.Garber@llawoffice.com

November 23, 2004

Via Fax to (406) 444-7798 and U.S. Mail

Honorable Mike McCarter
Workers' Compensation Court
P. O. Box 537
Helena, MT 59624

RE: Rausch, et al. v. Montana State Fund
Ruhd v. Liberty Northwest Insurance Corporation
WCC No. 9907-8274R1

Dear Judge McCarter:

Thank you for your letter of November 17, 2004, attached to which was a draft Summons.

In your letter you invited further comment and suggestions. As I hope you will remember in the Cheetham v. LNW case you issued a confidentiality/protective order that allowed Dave Lauridsen to review the files Liberty identified that could have fallen under his common fund attorney fee claim. Dave then reviewed those files and the matter was resolved.

I was hoping the same procedure could be followed in this case, after all implementation issues have been resolved, by providing the common fund attorneys with the PTD claims that have been identified by Liberty and ERD searches after which they could go through the hard copy files to develop much if not all of the other information outlined in ¶¶1-9 of your Summons.

A major benefit of this procedure is that it allows the common fund attorneys to satisfy themselves about the key facts that may give rise to an entitlement to common fund attorney fees. If the insurer is required to go through all of these files and provide the information set forth in your Summons, then the common fund attorneys may want to duplicate exactly the same effort.

Also I believe as a matter of equity the common fund attorneys who are claiming the fee should do the work for which they are being compensated by the common fund attorney fees.

As I am sure you know from your extensive involvement in other common fund cases, the work that may be required can be extensive both in time and resources.

TRANSMITTED TO
CLAIMS DEPT.

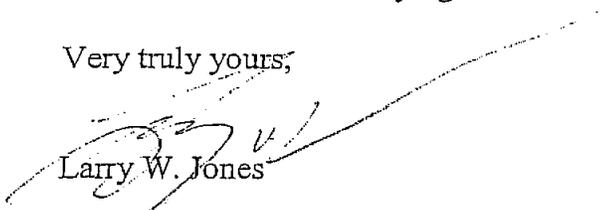
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Therefore I request that the Summons simply be to require the insurers to appear and participate in the common fund proceeding. As I hope you will remember in Dave's case, the method that was followed was both expeditious and resulted in absolutely no disagreements as to what cases fell under the common fund claim or the disposition of those cases.

Thank you for your invitation to comment. By a copy of this letter to all attorneys to whom your letter was sent I am notifying them of this communication with you and Liberty's request.

Very truly yours,



Larry W. Jones

LWJ/ap

c: Lon Dale

Stephen Roberts

Greg Overturf

Thomas Harrington

Mark Cadwallader

Monte Beck

Geoffrey Angel

Bradley Luck

Carrie Garber

Victor Halverson

Rex Palmer

Dianna Ferriter

Carol Gleed
