2022 HARRY AND DOROTHY GOODELL AWARD

Lance J. Ewing

Named in honor of RIMS' first president, the Harry & Dorothy Goodell Award pays tribute to an individual who has furthered the goals of the Society and the risk management discipline through outstanding service and achievement.

by Emily Holbrook

LIKE MANY IN THE RISK MANAGEMENT and insurance industry, Lance Ewing did not set out to be a risk professional. Eventually, however, a combination of curiosity and change drew him to the field. "I started my insurance and risk management journey after doing executive protection and security work," he said. "I was given the opportunity and challenge to work for several insurance carriers, and I enjoyed the nuances and changes of insurance. I also embraced the continuous learning environment. But the opportunity to become the client was a siren song to become a risk management professional. Once that occurred, I was hooked."

PAUL RYDING



Ewing has since amassed a wide range of executive experience in the field of risk management and insurance, including his current role as vice president of enterprise risk management and operations for the San Manuel Band of Mission Indians, a federally recognized tribe of Serrano people in San Bernardino County, California.

Previously, he served as executive vice president of global risk management for Cotton Holdings and prior to that, vice president and industry practice group leader at AIG in its real estate and hospitality division, with a portfolio of $1.4 billion in gross written premiums.

Prior to AIG, he served in senior risk management capacities for Caesars Entertainment, GES Exposition Services/VIAD, and for the City of Philadelphia School District. Additionally, he worked for various insurance companies, including Lumbermen's Underwriting Alliance, Pennsylvania Hospital Insurance Company and New York Lumberman's Insurance Trust in risk management and risk control capacities.

In 2007, while serving as vice president of risk management at Harrah's, Ewing was named Risk Manager of the Year, and in the following year, received the Risk Innovator of the Year award in entertainment, gaming, and hospitality for developing unique risk transfer and claims settlement opportunities for his clients.

While at Harrah's, Ewing developed and fostered three captives—two of which were profit centers for his department. He also revised and restructured the risk management department for faster response to the risks facing their properties. During this time, Ewing was able to successfully resolve catastrophic losses to Harrah's portfolio, including a $1.1 billion Hurricane Katrina property loss and a $400 million Hurricane Rita claim. Additionally, he participated in acquisition and divestiture of several properties held by the company, providing savings in the ultimate costs of the transactions.

A LIFETIME STUDENT AND TEACHER

Ewing makes education a core part of his career. He received his master's degree in law and justice from the University of Pittsburgh and completed his second master's degree in occupational safety engineering at Columbia Southern University. In addition to his Associate in Risk Management (ARM) designation, he has completed his Enterprise Risk Management Professional (ERMP) designation.

Ewing also has a passion for teaching others and devotes a significant portion of his time to educational and speaking engagements. He has been a faculty member for the Certified Risk Manager designation program offered by The National Alliance for Insurance Education & Research (TNA) for more than 20 years. He is one of the founding members of TNA's Certified Risk Manager (CRM) program and regularly participates in curriculum development and revisions. He also frequently teaches in TNA's James K. Ruble MEGA seminars, presenting new topics and materials related to the industry.

Ewing has served as chair of the Risk Management and Insurance Program at the University of Mississippi. He also serves on the University of Mississippi Business School's RMI Advisory Board, where an endowment was created in his name—the "Ewing Endowment for Business Excellence in Risk Management and Insurance." Through the Spencer Educational Foundation's Risk Manager in Residence grant program, he has lectured at Mississippi State University, University of Akron, University of Central Arkansas and several other universities and colleges, and is a member of the advisory board for East Carolina University's RMI program.

He has also authored numerous articles on insurance, risk management, crisis management, governance, risk and compliance (GRC), complex claims management, and workers compensation. Additionally, he has served on the advisory or client boards of Willis, AIG, the American Hotel and Lodging Association, and the National Alliance for Insurance Education and Research.

While Ewing is a self-professed lifetime learner and teacher, he acknowledges the value of personal connections as well. "It's not just about what you know, but about who," he said. "The risk management field is built to network with others and share our pain points and our successes. The ability to contact a risk colleague and ask them for their counsel and advice—even a competitor—is what makes most risk managers successful. I have received the support of great companies I have worked for and certain bosses who truly embrace risk management. Success is also measured in how many others you have supported and touched along your career. The 'what' would be having an open mind, knowing that the sun never sets on learning and being a bit of a professional disruptor."

DEDICATION TO THE INDUSTRY

Ewing's peers have noted his long-standing, proven commitment to the risk management and insurance community. Throughout his distinguished career, he has been dedicated to service and strengthening the

understanding of and appreciation for the risk management function and its applications across public and private organizations, especially RIMS.

Ewing served as RIMS president from 2003 to 2004 and was also the Society's first chief risk officer in 2002. He currently is the chair of the RIMS Nominating and Governance Committee and has represented the Society internationally in Japan, Australia, United Kingdom, Italy, Mexico and Canada. He has been a speaker for every RIMS Conference for the last 15 years and is a frequent presenter at the RIMS Canada Conference. Additionally, he has spoken at RIMS Florida Regional, Western Regional and Chicagoland Conferences.

He has also given presentations on risk management at more than 30 domestic and international colleges and universities for RIMS and Spencer, and he continues to be a strong and outspoken supporter of GRC, ERM and the risk management profession as a whole. Ewing has spoken internationally to promote insurance and risk management in Croatia, Romania, Kosovo, Japan, Spain, Canada, Mexico, Australia, Bermuda, Italy, India and the United Kingdom. In 2015, he was the keynote speaker for the Asia CEO Forum on Hospitality, which took place in the Philippines.

Ewing has also been active in legislative advocacy for the risk management community as a founding member of the RIMS External Affairs Committee and by chairing the first RIMS Legislative Summit, also known as "RIMS on the Hill," in Washington, D.C. In 2000, he received the Richard W. Bland Memorial Award, which recognizes outstanding performance and effort by a RIMS member in the area of legislation or regulation related to risk and insurance.

"The influence RIMS has had on me and on thousands of other risk professionals is immeasurable," he said. "Not just by being a former president of RIMS, which grew my management talents, but by just being a RIMS member, as it truly is the premier entity globally for risk management professionals and provides a network of education, resources and colleagues to draw from. RIMS staff is some of the best and brightest in keeping the profession innovative and creative for all members. RIMS is a family and I continue to be proud to be part of that family."

MORE TO COME

For the risk management community, Ewing encourages the industry's risk professionals to not become the department of "No," but instead the department of "Know."

"What do you need to know to get to 'Yes?'" he asked. "This will serve our profession well as emerging risks continue to appear on the horizon."

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Ewing does not just talk the talk. Constant immersion in industry policies, regulations and trends have allowed him to plan for emerging risks throughout his career. And while being acknowledged with the 2022 Goodell Award for doing just that makes him "humbled and honored," he also makes it a point to let everyone know he is not finished.

"While it is a lifetime achievement award, I have a lot more lifetime in me and so many more achievement goals that I have on my bucket list," he said. "This award means so much coming from RIMS, a Society that I respect immeasurably and continue to serve."

Although he has certainly experienced great success, Ewing remains grateful for the support he has received throughout his career. "I know there were many times I struggled in my career, but a number of recent Goodell winners were there to mentor me, encourage me, develop me, and be there for me," he said. "So, the honor to be recognized as they have been and to join those consummate leading risk professionals is immense and heartwarming."

In turn, Ewing hopes to focus his energy on giving back to RIMS and the risk management profession. "I will continue to do all I can for the Society with hopefully more successes to come," he said. "The future is bright for our profession." ◆