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PA INSURANCE DEPARTMENT
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ADMIN HEARINGS OFFICE

BEFORE THE INSURANCE COMMISSIONER
OF THE
COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN RE:	:	VIOLATIONS:
	:	
LASTER SAMANS & LEVIN, INC.	:	Section 606-A of 147 of 2002
437 Chestnut Street	:	(40 P.S. § 310.6)
Suite 701, Lafayette Building	:	
Philadelphia, PA 19106	:	Section 1621 of the Surplus Lines
	:	Act, Act of May 17, 1921, P.L. 682,
	:	<u>added</u> by the Act of December 18,
	:	1992, P.L. 1519 (40 P.S. § 991.1621)
	:	
Respondent.	:	Docket No. CO03-10-021

CONSENT ORDER

AND NOW, this *12th* day of *January*, 2004, this Order is hereby issued by the Deputy Insurance Commissioner of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania pursuant to the statutes cited above and in disposition of the matter captioned above.

1. Respondent hereby admits and acknowledges that it has received proper notice of its rights to a formal administrative hearing pursuant to the Administrative Agency Law, 2 Pa.C.S.A. §101, et seq., or other applicable law.

2. Respondent hereby waives all rights to a formal administrative hearing in this matter, and agrees that this Consent Order, and the Findings of Fact and Conclusions of Law contained herein, shall have the full force and effect of an Order duly entered in accordance with the adjudicatory procedures set forth in the Administrative Agency Law, supra, or other applicable law.

FINDINGS OF FACT

3. The Deputy Insurance Commissioner finds true and correct each of the following Findings of Fact:

- (a) Respondent is Laster Samans & Levin, Incorporated, and maintains its address at 437 Chestnut Street, Suite 701, Lafayette Building, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania 19106.
- (b) Respondent, at all relevant times herein, has been a licensed insurance producer and possessed licensing to procure surplus lines insurance.
- (c) Respondent conducted an audit of its surplus lines procurements made between January, 2000 and December, 2002, in accordance with guidelines established by the Pennsylvania Insurance Department, to determine if surplus lines taxes were collected and appropriately remitted to the Pennsylvania Department of Revenue.

- (d) Respondent's audit determined that \$10,109.74 in surplus lines taxes, representing 3% of the total premium for 16 policies, was not remitted to the Pennsylvania Department of Revenue in accordance with the requirements of the Pennsylvania surplus lines laws and regulations.

CONCLUSIONS OF LAW

4. In accord with the above Findings of Fact and applicable provisions of law, the Deputy Insurance Commissioner concludes and finds the following Conclusions of Law:

- (a) Respondent is subject to the jurisdiction of the Pennsylvania Insurance Department.
- (b) Section 606-A of Act 147 of 2002 prohibits the grant of a producers license except to an applicant worthy of a license (40 P.S. § 310.6).
- (c) Respondent's activities described above in paragraph 3(d) violate Section 606-A of Act 147 of 2003 (40 P.S. § 310.6).

- (d) Respondent's violations of Section 606-A of Act 147 are punishable by the following, under Section 691-A of Act 147 of 2003 (40 P.S. § 310.91):
- (i) suspension, revocation or refusal to issue the certificate of qualification or license;
 - (ii) imposition of a civil penalty not to exceed five thousand dollars (\$5,000.00) for every violation of the Act;
 - (iii) an order to cease and desist; and
 - (iv) any other conditions as the Commissioner deems appropriate.
- (e) Section 1621 of the Surplus Lines Act requires a tax of three percent to be levied against insureds on all premiums charged, and for that tax to be collected by the licensee and remitted to the Pennsylvania Department of Revenue (40 P.S. § 991.1621).
- (f) Respondent's activities described above in paragraph 3(d) constitute failure to collect and remit the required three percent surplus lines premium tax, and violate Section 1621 of the Surplus Lines Act (40 P.S. § 991.1621).
- (g) Respondent's violations of Section 1621 of the Surplus Lines Act are punishable by the following, under Section 1625(b) of the Insurance Company Law (40 P.S. § 991.1625):
- (i) imposition of a penalty not exceeding \$1,000 for the first offense and \$2,000 for each succeeding offense.

ORDER

5. In accord with the above Findings of Fact and Conclusions of Law, the Deputy Insurance Commissioner orders and Respondent consents to the following:

- (a) Respondent shall cease and desist from engaging in the activities described herein in the Findings of Fact and Conclusions of Law.

- (b) Respondent shall pay a civil penalty of Five Thousand Dollars (\$5,000.00) to the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania. This penalty shall be made payable to the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, and directed to Sharon L. Harbert, Administrative Assistant, Bureau of Enforcement, 1311 Strawberry Square, Harrisburg, Pennsylvania 17120. Payment may be enclosed with the Consent Order, but must be paid in any event no later than thirty (30) days after the date of the Consent Order.

- (c) Respondent shall make restitution of unremitted surplus lines taxes, penalties and interest, to the Pennsylvania Department of Revenue within thirty (30) days from the date of this Order. Proof of restitution payment shall be provided to the Insurance Department by Respondent.

- (d) Respondent's certificates and licenses may be immediately suspended by the Department following its investigation and determination that (i) penalty or

restitution payment has not been made, (ii) any terms of this Order have not been complied with, or (iii) any complaint against Respondent is accurate and a statute or regulation has been violated. The Department's right to act under this section is limited to a period of three (3) years from the date of this Order.

- (e) Respondent specifically waives its right to prior notice of said suspension, but will be entitled to a hearing upon written request received by the Department no later than thirty (30) days after the date the Department mailed to Respondent by certified mail, return receipt requested, notification of said suspension, which hearing shall be scheduled for a date within sixty (60) days of the Department's receipt of Respondent's written request.
- (f) At the hearing referred to in paragraph 5(e) of this Order, Respondent shall have the burden of demonstrating that it is worthy of a license.
- (g) In the event Respondent's certificates and licenses are suspended pursuant to paragraph 5(d) above, and Respondent either fails to request a hearing within thirty (30) days or at the hearing fails to demonstrate that it is worthy of a license, Respondent's suspended certificates and licenses shall be revoked.

6. In the event the Deputy Insurance Commissioner finds that there has been a breach of any of the provisions of this Order, based upon the Findings of Fact and

Conclusions of Law contained herein, the Department may pursue any and all legal remedies available, including but not limited to the following: The Department may enforce the provisions of this Order in an administrative action pursuant to the Administrative Agency Law, supra, or other relevant provision of law; or, if applicable, the Department may enforce the provisions of this Order in any other court of law or equity having jurisdiction.

7. Alternatively, in the event the Deputy Commissioner finds that there has been a breach of any of the provisions of this Order, the Deputy Commissioner may declare this Order to be null and void and, thereupon, reopen the entire matter for appropriate action pursuant to the Administrative Agency Law, supra, or other relevant provision of law.

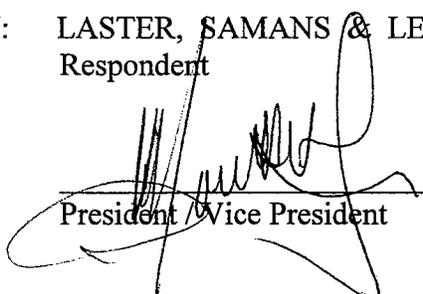
8. In any such enforcement proceeding, Respondent may contest whether a breach of the provisions of this Order has occurred but may not contest the Findings of Fact and Conclusions of Law contained herein.

9. Respondent hereby expressly waives any relevant statute of limitations and application of the doctrine of laches for purposes of any enforcement of this Order.

10. This Order constitutes the entire agreement of the parties with respect to the matters referred to herein, and it may not be amended or modified except by an amended order signed by all the parties hereto.

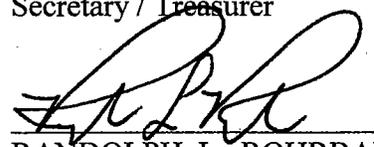
11. This Order shall be final upon execution by the Deputy Insurance Commissioner. Only the Insurance Commissioner or the duly authorized Deputy Insurance Commissioner is authorized to bind the Insurance Department with respect to the settlement of the alleged violation of law contained herein, and this Consent Order is not effective until executed by the Insurance Commissioner or the duly authorized Deputy Insurance Commissioner.

BY: LASTER, SAMANS & LEVIN, INC.,
Respondent



President / Vice President

Secretary / Treasurer



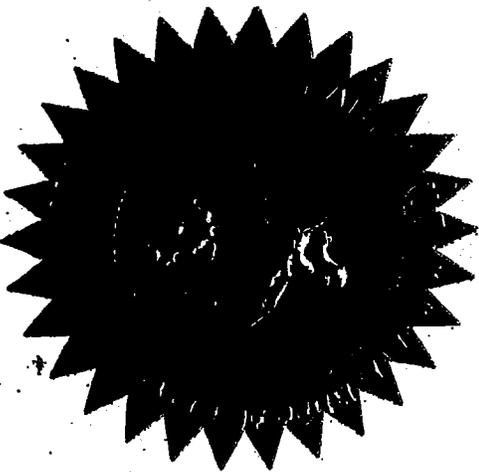
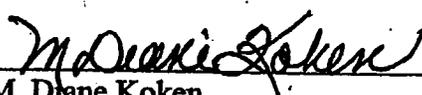
RANDOLPH L. ROHRBAUGH
Deputy Insurance Commissioner
Commonwealth of Pennsylvania

BEFORE THE INSURANCE COMMISSIONER
OF THE
COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN RE: The Act of April 9, 1929, P.L. 177, No. 175, known as The
Administrative Code of 1929

AND NOW, this 29 day of April, 2002, Randolph L.

Rohrbaugh, Deputy Insurance Commissioner, is hereby designated as the
Commissioner's duly authorized representative for purposes of entering in and executing
Consent Orders. This delegation of authority shall continue in effect until otherwise
terminated by a later Order of the Insurance Commissioner.

M. Diane Koken
Insurance Commissioner