

Cozen O'Connor Attorneys Participate In TIPS Annual Meeting

Wednesday, August 20, 2008

Cozen O'Connor members Francine L. Semaya and Richard C. Mason recently participated in the American Bar Association Tort Trial and Insurance Practice Section's (TIPS) Annual Meeting. Semaya served as the Arrangements Chair of the event, responsible for the historic event at Ellis Island and the section's 75th anniversary celebration at the United Nations. She also participated in the panel on "The Terrorism Risk Insurance Act – TRIA's Nuts and Bolts and Lessons," which discussed TRIA, its economic consequences and how it affects property, business interruption and workers' compensation coverage. Mason participated in the "Building a Better ADR Clause: An Interdisciplinary Approach" panel, discussing "The Anatomy of an Arbitration Clause." The event was held in New York City.

Resident in the New York Downtown office, Semaya is the chair of the firm's insurance corporate and regulatory practice. She concentrates her practice in reinsurance, insolvency and national and global insurance regulatory matters, in the areas of property, casualty, life, annuity, surety and financial guaranty.

Active in several professional organizations, Semaya is a member of the American Bar Association and its Tort Trial and Insurance Practice Section (TIPS), where she chairs the Task Force on Federal Involvement in Insurance Regulation Modernization. She also served for six years as the TIPS delegate to the House of Delegates and chaired the Task Force on Implementation of TIPS Insurance Insolvency Report, the Task Force on Insurance Insolvency, and the Public Regulation of Insurance Law Committee. She currently serves as president of the International Association of Insurance Receivers (IAIR) and is a member of the New York State Bar Association, the New York City Bar's Insurance Law Committee, the Practising Law Institute's Insurance Law Advisory Board, the AIDA and the Federation of Regulatory Counsel, Inc. Semaya is a frequent lecturer and has authored numerous articles in both legal and insurance trade publications on insurance regulatory, reinsurance and insolvency law.

Semaya earned her undergraduate and graduate degrees from Brooklyn College (B.A., *magna cum laude*, 1973, where she was elected to Phi Beta Kappa; M.S., *magna cum laude*, 1975) and her law degree from New York Law School (J.D., *cum laude*, 1982). She is admitted to practice in New York and before the U.S. District Court for the Eastern and Southern Districts of New York, U.S. Supreme Court and New York Supreme Court: Appellate Division, Second Department.

Resident in the Philadelphia office, Mason is a member of the global insurance group and heads the firm's financial risk transfer practice. He specializes in alternative dispute resolution (ADR), including arbitrating insurance and reinsurance coverage disputes concerning life, accident and health, and property risks. His experience includes involvement in such high-profile disputes as the London Market reinsurance spiral disputes, accident and health reinsurance pools, Enron bond insurance coverage dispute, the WorldCom bond default insurance dispute, and multibillion-dollar property reinsurance claims in connection with September 11, 2001, World Trade Center losses. Mason is accomplished in negotiating and drafting commutations and portfolio transfers. He also litigates and handles appeals of complex commercial fraud matters and other transactional disputes.

Mason is the immediate past editor-in-chief of the American Bar Association's *Tort & Insurance Law Journal*, a member of the ABA's Financial Institutions Litigation and Business Litigation

Related Practice Areas

- Insurance Corporate & Regulatory
- Reinsurance

Industry Sectors

- Insurance

Subcommittees, and a vice chair of the Excess, Surplus Lines and Reinsurance Subcommittee. He has served as an arbitrator, and is a member of the AIDA Reinsurance and Insurance Arbitration Society (ARIAS).

Mason earned his undergraduate degree from Loyola College (B.A., 1987), and his law degree from the University of Maryland School of Law (J.D., with honors, 1991). He is admitted to practice in Pennsylvania, New Jersey and New York.