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## COZEN ESTABLISHES NATIONWIDE COVERAGE TEAM TO ADDRESS FOODBORNE CONTAMINATION CLAIMS

*By: Joseph F. Bermudez, Esq.*

Cozen O'Connor  
707 17th Street, Suite 3100 • Denver, CO 80202  
(720) 479-3926 • Fax: (720) 479-3890  
[jbermudez@cozen.com](mailto:jbermudez@cozen.com)

In response to the enormous impact foodborne outbreaks have had on insurers, Cozen O'Connor has established a national team of attorneys experienced in handling food contamination coverage matters. The attorneys in the Food Contamination Coverage Practice Area are prepared to assist clients with contamination-related coverage issues on national, regional and local levels. If handled immediately, effectively and properly, the economic impact of such devastatingly injurious outbreaks can be successfully managed.

The annual toll caused by foodborne contamination outbreaks is estimated at \$6.9 billion. The CDC estimates that the U.S. suffers 76 million cases of foodborne illness each year. Such contamination matters are no longer isolated, localized events. A single foodborne outbreak can cause injurious national and regional consequences. Increasingly, outbreaks are influenced by international factors. In the past year, foodborne outbreaks have included nationally distributed Italian olives contaminated by *Clostridium botulinum*; Pacific Northwest shellfish shipped nationally and contaminated with *Vibrio parahaemolyticus*; South Korean oysters contaminated with norovirus were found in several western states; spinach contaminated by *E.coli* O157:H7; peanut butter contaminated by *Salmonella* was identified in several states; contaminated lettuce served by certain restaurant chains caused several regional outbreaks nationwide; and tomatoes consumed in restaurants located in 21 states contaminated by *Salmonella* Typhimurium. Most recently, chickens and hogs that consumed contaminated feed from China entered the national food supply.

We are preparing an extensive White Paper for clients that will address issues frequently litigated with respect to liability, property and specialty policies. Additionally, Thomas M. Jones and Jennifer M. Bozeat have authored a comprehensive article addressing coverage issues that will appear in the May edition of DRI's For the Defense.

Cozen's team of food contamination coverage attorneys are prepared to provide immediate, effective assistance. Through meetings, conference calls, seminars, coverage alerts and the preparation of papers and articles, Cozen is prepared to assist friends and clients effectively and efficiently handle the next devastatingly injurious foodborne contamination outbreak.

*For analysis on food contamination issues or how the Food Contamination Coverage Practice Area can assist you, please contact Joe Bermudez of Cozen O'Connor's Denver, Colorado office. Cozen O'Connor is a nationally recognized leader in representing the insurance industry in all coverage areas, including food contamination claims.*