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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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A.M. Best Affirms Ratings of W.R. Berkley Corporation and Its Subsidiaries; Assigns Rating to Subordinated Debentures

Ratings Supplement

The FSR of A+ (Superior) and the ICRs of "aa-" have been affirmed with a stable outlook for the

following members of the W.R. Berkley Insurance Group:

- Acadia Insurance Company
- Admiral Indemnity Company
- Admiral Insurance Company
- American Mining Insurance Company
- Berkley Assurance Company
- Berkley Insurance Company
- Berkley National Insurance Company
- Berkley Regional Insurance Company
- Berkley Regional Specialty Insurance Company
- Carolina Casualty Insurance Company
- Clermont Insurance Company
- Continental Western Insurance Company
- Firemens Insurance Company of Washington, D.C.
- Gemini Insurance Company
- Great Divide Insurance Company
- Key Risk Insurance Company
- Midwest Employers Casualty Company
- Nautilus Insurance Company
- Preferred Employers Insurance Company
- Queen's Island Insurance Company, Ltd.
- Riverport Insurance Company
- StarNet Insurance Company
- Tri-State Insurance Company of Minnesota



NEWS RELEASE

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- Union Insurance Company
- Union Standard Lloyds
- W.R. Berkley Europe AG

The FSR of A+ (Superior) and the ICR of "aa-" have been affirmed with a stable outlook for **Berkley** Life and Health Insurance Company.

The ICR of "a-" has been affirmed with a stable outlook for W.R. Berkley Corporation.

The following issue ratings have been affirmed with a stable outlook:

W.R. Berkley Corporation

- -- "a-" on \$150 million, 6.15% senior unsecured notes, due 2019
- -- "a-" on \$300 million, 7.375 % senior unsecured notes, due 2019
- -- "a-" on \$300 million, 5.375% senior unsecured notes, due 2020
- -- "a-" on \$100 million, 8.7% senior unsecured notes, due 2022
- -- "a-" on \$350 million, 4.625% senior unsecured notes, due 2022
- -- "a-" on \$250 million, 6.25% senior unsecured notes, due 2037
- -- "a-" on \$350 million, 4.75% senior unsecured notes, due 2044
- -- "bbb+" on \$350 million, 5.625% subordinated debentures, due 2053

The following issue rating has been assigned a stable outlook:

W.R. Berkley Corporation

-- "bbb+" on \$100 million, 5.9% subordinated debentures, due 2056.

The following indicative ratings under the shelf registration have been affirmed with a stable outlook:

W.R. Berkley Corporation

- -- "a-" on senior debt
- -- "bbb+" on subordinated debt
- -- "bbb" on preferred stock

W.R. Berkley Capital Trust III

-- "bbb" on preferred securities

This press release relates to rating(s) that have been published on A.M. Best's website. For all

rating information relating to the release and pertinent disclosures, including details of the office

responsible for issuing each of the individual ratings referenced in this release, please see A.M. Best's

<u>Recent Rating Activity</u> web page.





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