

By Lawyers, For Lawyers

CUSTOMER STORY:
Charles Bateman
MLM-insured for 28 years

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The late 1970s and early 1980s were a time of great upheaval in the malpractice insurance industry. A rise in malpractice claims led to soaring premiums and increasingly limited coverage. Following the lead of a half-dozen other states, members of the Minnesota State Bar organized a task force to create an insurance company that would be owned by its policyholders and would focus on providing excellent service, reliable coverage and loss prevention services in a stable environment. As a result, Minnesota Lawyers Mutual Insurance Company was formed in April of 1982.

It was during this tumultuous time that Charles Bateman, a Duluth, Minnesota attorney with Reyelts, Leighton and Bateman, was growing very frustrated with the unstable state of the malpractice insurance industry. “A lot of carriers pulled out of the Minnesota market,

including my provider. The only way to place coverage was through a company based out of Canada, and they would not guarantee a tail policy. It was quite expensive, even though they didn’t provide all the coverage and services I needed.”

Mr. Bateman decided to place his insurance with the newly-created Minnesota Lawyers Mutual (MLM). “The truth is, as a company, MLM understands the issues we lawyers face, and it is going to be around when we need it. MLM is not going to leave us in a lurch.”

Mr. Bateman says that he’s continued to observe the uneven ebb and flow of this market throughout the years. “I’ve seen the patterns of carriers come in and out of the professional liability market repeat a number of times — that’s why I advise people to place their insurance with a stable carrier. Luckily, since we’ve been with MLM, we haven’t had to worry about it.”

Another factor in Mr. Bateman’s decision to insure with MLM was the people who represent it. “I go to the seminars and sometimes speak at them about ethics. The people who run them are terrific. As far as the claims department is concerned, MLM hires the kind of lawyers I would hire myself. They are careful, professional, and respectful. I have also had positive experiences when dealing with the underwriters and customer service representatives.”

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About Minnesota Lawyers Mutual

Founded in 1982 by members of the Minnesota State Bar, Minnesota Lawyers Mutual Insurance Company provides legal professional liability insurance and risk management services for its policyholders. MLM is committed to being an efficient, accountable and permanent practice management resource to the legal profession, exemplified by an AM Best rating of A- (excellent), and a consistent dividend return for the past 22 years.