Report of the Examination of Wisconsin Lawyers Mutual Insurance Company Madison, Wisconsin As of December 31, 2022

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Tony Evers, Governor of Wisconsin Nathan Houdek, Commissioner of Insurance

August 21, 2023

Honorable Nathan D. Houdek Commissioner of Insurance State of Wisconsin 125 South Webster Street Madison, Wisconsin 53703

Commissioner:

In accordance with your instructions, a compliance examination has been made of the affairs and financial condition of:

### WISCONSIN LAWYERS MUTUAL INSURANCE COMPANY Madison, Wisconsin

and this report is respectfully submitted.

# I. INTRODUCTION

The previous examination of Wisconsin Lawyers Mutual Insurance Company (hereinafter "WILMIC" or "the company") was conducted in 2018 as of December 31, 2017. The current examination covered the intervening period ending December 31, 2022, and included a review of such subsequent transactions as deemed necessary to complete the examination.

The examination was conducted using a modified risk-focused approach in accordance with the National Association of Insurance Commissioners (NAIC) *Financial Condition Examiners Handbook*. This approach sets forth guidance for planning and performing the examination of an insurance company to evaluate the financial condition, assess corporate governance, identify current and prospective risks (including those that might materially affect the financial condition, either currently or prospectively), and evaluate system controls and procedures used to mitigate those risks. This approach was modified to focus on the significant financial statement balances and transactions.

All significant accounts and activities of the company were considered in accordance with the modified risk-focused examination process. This includes assessing significant estimates made by

management and evaluating management's compliance with statutory accounting principles, annual statement instructions, and Wisconsin laws and regulations. The examination does not attest to the fair presentation of the financial statements included herein. If during the course of the examination an adjustment is identified, the impact of such adjustment will be documented separately at the end of the "Financial Data" section in the area captioned "Reconciliation of Surplus per Examination."

Emphasis was placed on those areas of the company's operations accorded a high priority by the examiner-in-charge when planning the examination. Special attention was given to the action taken by the company to satisfy the recommendations and comments made in the previous examination report.

The company is annually audited by an independent public accounting firm as prescribed by s. Ins 50.05, Wis. Adm. Code. An integral part of this compliance examination was the review of the independent accountant's work papers. Based on the results of the review of these work papers, alternative or additional examination steps deemed necessary for the completion of this examination were performed. The examination work papers contain documentation concerning the alternative or additional examination the examination.

#### **II. HISTORY AND PLAN OF OPERATION**

The company was organized in 1986 under Chapter 611 of the Wisconsin Statutes. Wisconsin Lawyers Mutual Insurance Company is a mutual insurer that writes professional liability insurance in the state of Wisconsin.

Wisconsin Lawyers Mutual Insurance was organized by Wisconsin attorneys in response to the increasing cost and lack of availability of professional liability insurance. The company was initially capitalized by the proceeds from the issuance of subordinated surplus debentures (mutual bonds) pursuant to s. 611.33, Wis. Stat. Additional mutual bonds were issued in 1993 with the consent of the commissioner of insurance. On March 12, 2003, the commissioner of insurance granted the company approval to redeem the remaining mutual bonds under s. 611.33, Wis. Stat.

The company is licensed and writes premium only in Wisconsin. In 2022, direct premium written totaled \$4,495,898. The company exclusively writes professional errors and omissions liability policies for attorneys (primarily on a claims-made basis), with a maximum policy limit of \$10 million. WILMIC may issue policies in excess of the limit under a facultative reinsurance arrangement, whereby the reinsurer does the underwriting and pricing. WILMIC also has issued a small number of endorsements extending the claims reporting period. Usually, the extended reporting period endorsements are issued to lawyers who have discontinued practicing law and desire continued coverage for the years in which they were actually practicing. The products are marketed through four licensed agents who are company employees and a small number of independent agents.

The company's primary market is law firms of six or fewer lawyers. Small firms and sole practitioners, which typically present a lower severity exposure, continue to be the focus of the company's marketing efforts. Once a small firm or a new attorney becomes a policyholder, they typically remain a policyholder (93% retention rate) for the length of their career. Marketing materials are mailed or emailed to prospective policyholders. The company also utilizes other channels of distribution, such as paper and online ads, social media, direct mail, print and electronic publications, conventions, and conferences. Additionally, the company maintains strong contacts with the two law schools in Wisconsin.

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The following table is a summary of the net insurance premiums written by the company in

2022. The growth of the company is discussed in the "Financial Data" section of this report.

Line of Business	Direct Premium	Reinsurance Assumed	Reinsurance Ceded	Net Premium
Other liability – occurrence Other liability – claims	\$ 251,179	\$0	\$73,021	\$178,158
made	4,244,719	0	941,130	3,303,589
Total All Lines	<u>\$4,495,898</u>	<u>\$0</u>	<u>\$1,014,151</u>	<u>\$3,481,747</u>

#### **III. MANAGEMENT AND CONTROL**

#### **Board of Directors**

The board is comprised of 13 elected directors who hold three-year terms with a limit of four terms. In addition to the 13 elected directors, there are two additional directors: (1) the former Executive Director of the State Bar of Wisconsin was appointed to the board in 2009 and will serve until June 2, 2023, they will then take an elected seat vacated by a director who has reached their term limits, and (2) the President of Wisconsin Lawyers Mutual Insurance Company will have the right to serve, ex officio, as a regular member of the board as long as they hold office. In addition to the board members, there is a Young Lawyers Division Liaison who is there to observe and offer a young lawyer's perspective on issues. Board members currently receive the following compensation for attendance at board meetings: \$1,300 for in-person attendance, \$1,000 for visual electronic attendance, and \$700 for voice-only electronic attendance.

Currently, the board of directors consists of the following persons (there is currently one vacancy on the board that will be filled effective September 8th, 2023):

Name	Principal Occupation	Term Expires
Richard Orton, Chairman <i>Milwaukee, Wl</i>	Attorney	2023
Brian Braziel <i>Eau Claire, Wl</i>	Attorney	2025
George Brown <i>Madison, Wl</i>	Former Exec. Director at State Bar of Wisconsin	2023
Kristine Burck <i>Madison, Wl</i>	General Counsel	2023
Maureen Easton <i>Madison, Wl</i>	Attorney	2024
Alan Hougum <i>Wausau, Wl</i>	Attorney	2025
Andrew Martinez Baraboo, WI	Attorney	2025
Thomas Mews New Richmond, WI	President of FNC Bank	2024
Anne Norman	Senior VP & Chief Marketing Officer	2024

Name	Principal Occupation	Term Expires
Madison, WI		
Margaret Raymond <i>Madison, WI</i>	Law Professor/Former Dean	2024
Ariella Schreiber <i>Madison, Wl</i>	Vice President & General Counsel	2025
Thomas Schumacher Baldwin, WI	Attorney	2023
Marna Tess-Mattner Brookfield, WI	Attorney	2023
Thomas Watson <i>Madison, Wl</i>	President & CEO	None
Young Lawyers Division Liaison Jose Castro Denver, CO	Attorney	2023

### **Officers of the Company**

The officers serving at the time of this examination are as follows:

Name	Office
Thomas Watson	President
Patricia Lehner	Treasurer
Matthew Beier	Secretary

### **Committees of the Board**

The company's bylaws allow for the formation of certain committees by the board of directors.

The committees at the time of the examination are listed below:

### **Executive Committee**

Richard Orton, Chair George Brown Kristine Burck Thomas Mews Margaret Raymond Thomas Schumacher Marna Tess-Mattner Thomas Watson

#### **Long Range Planning Committee** George Brown, Chair Brian Braziel Andrew Martinez

# Audit Committee

Ariella Schreiber, Chair Anne Norman Alan Hougum Maureen Easton Kristine Burck Brian Braziel

### **Governance Committee**

Marna Tess-Mattner, Chair Kristine Burck Maureen Easton Anne Norman Richard Orton Ariella Schreiber Thomas Schumacher Thomas Watson

# **CEO Compensation Committee**

Marna Tess-Mattner, Chair George Brown Ariella Schreiber Richard Orton Andrew Martinez Margaret Raymond Thomas Schumacher

## **Investment Committee**

Thomas Mews, Chair Alan Hougum Anne Norman Thomas Watson

### **IV. AFFILIATED COMPANIES**

Wisconsin Lawyers Mutual Insurance Company is the ultimate parent of a holding company system. The organizational chart below depicts the relationships among the affiliates in the group. A brief description of the significant affiliates follows the organizational chart.



### Wisconsin Lawyers Insurance Agency, LLC

Wisconsin Lawyers Mutual Insurance Company formed Wisconsin Lawyers Insurance Agency (the agency, formerly known as Wisconsin Lawyers Bond Agency, LLC) in 2010. The agency is a single-member Wisconsin Limited Liability Company, whose purpose is to market court bonds sold by The Bar Plan of Missouri. As of December 31, 2022, this investment was valued at \$42,961, which represents the agency's equity. This amount is nonadmitted because Wisconsin Lawyers Insurance Agency, LLC, is not audited.

### V. REINSURANCE

The company's reinsurance portfolio and strategy at the time of the examination are

described below. A list of the companies that have a significant amount of reinsurance in force at the time

of the examination follows. The contracts contained proper insolvency provisions.

# Nonaffiliated Ceding Contracts

1.	Туре:	First Excess of Loss
	Reinsurer:	<ul> <li>20.00% WILMIC Co-Participation</li> <li>3.50 The TOA Reinsurance Company of America</li> <li>9.00 Hannover Ruck SE</li> <li>25.00 Lawyers Mutual Liability Insurance Company</li> <li>4.00 Aspen Bermuda Limited</li> <li>4.50 Convex Insurance UK Limited</li> <li>8.50 XL Re Europe SE</li> <li>25.50 Lloyd's of London - Syndicates</li> <li>100.00% Total</li> </ul>
	Scope:	Lawyers professional liability claims including loss adjustment expenses (LAE)
	Retention:	\$250,000 each insured each claim
	Coverage:	\$500,000 each insured each claim in excess of company retention plus their proportionate share of any applicable loss adjustment expense
	Effective date:	January 1, 2023
	Termination:	January 1, 2024
2.	Туре:	Excess of loss
	Reinsured:	<ul> <li>9.25% Berkley Insurance Company</li> <li>8.75 The TOA Reinsurance Company of America</li> <li>12.00 Hannover Ruck SE</li> <li>4.00 Aspen Bermuda Limited</li> <li>7.25 Convex Insurance UK Limited</li> <li>16.50 XL Re Europe SE</li> <li>42.25 Lloyd's of London - Syndicates</li> <li>100.00% Total</li> </ul>
	Scope:	Lawyers professional liability claims including loss adjustment expenses (LAE)
	Retention:	\$750,000 each insured each claim
	Coverage:	\$4,250,000 each insured each claim in excess of company retention plus their proportionate share of any applicable loss adjustment expense, and any extra contractual obligations and/or excess limits liability arising from the same claim up to an additional \$4,250,000 each insured each claim after recovery has been exhausted

	Effective date:	January 1, 2023
	Termination:	January 1, 2024
3.	Туре:	Casualty Excess
	Reinsured	<ul> <li>9.00% Aspen Bermuda Limited</li> <li>5.94 Convex Insurance UK Limited</li> <li>10.00 XL Re Europe SE</li> <li><u>75.06</u> Lloyd's of London - Syndicates</li> <li><u>100.00</u>% Total</li> </ul>
	Scope:	Lawyers professional liability claims including loss adjustment expenses (LAE)
	Retention:	\$5,000,000 each and every claim and in the aggregate, each policy covered
	Coverage:	\$5,000,000 each insured each claim in excess of company retention plus their proportionate share of any applicable loss adjustment expense, and any extra contractual obligations and/or excess limits liability arising from the same claim up to an additional \$5,000,000 each insured each claim after recovery has been exhausted
		Option to increase the aggregate amount applicable to the retention and limit to \$10,000,000 for each policy covered.
	Commissions:	Flat ceding commission of 15% on premium ceded
	Effective date:	January 1, 2023
	Termination:	January 1, 2024
4.	Туре:	Casualty Excess
	Reinsured:	<ul> <li>11.00% Aspen Bermuda Limited</li> <li>5.94 Convex Insurance UK Limited</li> <li>12.00 XL Re Europe SE</li> <li>71.06 Lloyd's of London - Syndicates</li> <li>100.00% Total</li> </ul>
	Scope:	Lawyers professional liability claims including loss adjustment expenses (LAE)
	Retention:	\$10,000,000 each and every alaim and in the aggregate, each palicy
		\$10,000,000 each and every claim and in the aggregate, each policy covered

	Option to increase the aggregate amount applicable to the retention and limit to \$20,000,000 for each policy covered.
Commissions:	Flat ceding commission of 10% on premium ceded
Effective date:	January 1, 2023
Termination:	January 1, 2024

### VI. FINANCIAL DATA

The following financial statements reflect the financial condition of the company as reported to the commissioner of insurance in the December 31, 2022, annual statement. Adjustments made as a result of the examination are noted at the end of this section in the area captioned "Reconciliation of Surplus per Examination." Also included in this section are schedules that reflect the growth of the company and the compulsory and security surplus calculation.

## Wisconsin Lawyers Mutual Insurance Company Assets As of December 31, 2022

	Assets	Nonadmitted Assets	Net Admitted Assets
Bonds	\$28,666,098	\$	\$28,666,098
Stocks: Preferred stocks	15 025		45.025
Common stocks	45,925 5,636,839		45,925 5,636,839
Cash, cash equivalents, and short-term	5,050,059		3,030,039
investments	1,175,411		1,175,411
Other invested assets	42,961	42,961	1,170,411
Investment income due and accrued	168,200	12,001	168,200
Premiums and considerations:	100,200		100,200
Deferred premiums, agents' balances,			
and installments booked but			
deferred and not yet due	416,379		416,379
Reinsurance:	-,		-,
Amounts recoverable from reinsurers	6,456		6,456
Other amounts receivable under			
reinsurance contracts	165,303		165,303
Current federal and foreign income tax			
recoverable and interest thereon	125,000		125,000
Net deferred tax asset	165,300		165,300
Electronic data processing equipment			
and software	9,928	6,997	2,931
Furniture and equipment, including			
health care delivery assets	908	908	
Write-ins for other than invested assets:			
Due from Insured – deductible	19,440	10,600	8,840
Security Deposit	6,341	6,341	
Prepaid expenses	30,321	30,321	
Remaining write-ins from overflow			
page	58,600		58,600
Total Assets	<u>\$36,739,410</u>	<u>\$98,128</u>	<u>\$36,641,282</u>

# Wisconsin Lawyers Mutual Insurance Company Liabilities, Surplus, and Other Funds As of December 31, 2022

Losses Loss adjustment expenses		\$ 3,404,826 3,034,639
Commissions payable, contingent commissions, and other		0,004,009
similar charges		758
Other expenses (excluding taxes, licenses, and fees)		97,814
Taxes, licenses, and fees (excluding federal and foreign		
income taxes)		10,000
Unearned premiums		1,459,851
Advance premium		277,962
Dividends declared and unpaid:		04.047
Policyholders		64,047
Ceded reinsurance premiums payable (net of ceding		
commissions)		934,431
Funds held by company under reinsurance treaties		0
Amounts withheld or retained by company for account of		040.000
others		818,999
Provision for reinsurance		44,000
Total Liabilities		10,147,327
Unassigned funds (surplus)	<u>\$26,493,955</u>	
Surplus as Regards Policyholders		26,493,955
Total Liabilities and Surplus		<u>\$36,641,282</u>

# Wisconsin Lawyers Mutual Insurance Company Summary of Operations For the Year 2022

Underwriting Income Premiums earned		\$3,444,021
Deductions: Losses incurred Loss adjustment expenses incurred Other underwriting expenses incurred Total underwriting deductions Net underwriting gain (loss)	\$ 508,228 1,769,550 <u>1,634,398</u>	<u>3,912,176</u> (468,155)
Investment Income Net investment income earned Net realized capital gains (losses) Net investment gain (loss)	347,134 735,104	1,082,238
<b>Other Income</b> Finance and service charges not included in premiums Write-ins for miscellaneous income: Miscellaneous Income Total other income	31,241 6,915	<u>38,156</u>
Net income (loss) before dividends to policyholders and before federal and foreign income taxes Dividends to policyholders		652,239 250,897
Net income (loss) after dividends to policyholders but before federal and foreign income taxes Federal and foreign income taxes incurred		401,342 (118,207)
Net Income (Loss)		<u>\$ 519,549</u>

# Wisconsin Lawyers Mutual Insurance Company Cash Flow For the Year 2022

Premiums collected net of reinsurance Net investment income Miscellaneous income Total Benefit- and loss-related payments Commissions, expenses paid, and aggregate write-ins for deductions Dividends paid to policyholders Federal and foreign income taxes paid (recovered) Total deductions Net cash from operations		\$1,228,874 3,380,354 241,229 <u>98,001</u>	\$3,110,756 680,393 <u>38,156</u> 3,829,305 <u>4,948,458</u> (1,119,153)
Proceeds from investments sold, matured, or repaid: Bonds Stocks Net gains (losses) on cash, cash equivalents, and short-term investments Total investment proceeds Cost of investments acquired (long-	\$8,516,524 2,161,032 <u>21,874</u>	10,699,431	
term only): Bonds Stocks Miscellaneous applications Total investments acquired	8,845,530 436,285 <u>1,813</u>	<u>9,283,628</u>	
Net cash from investments Cash from financing and miscellaneous		_	1,415,803
sources: Other cash provided (applied) Net cash from financing and miscellaneous sources		<u>(93,694)</u>	(93,694)
Reconciliation: Net Change in Cash, Cash Equivalents, and Short-Term Investments Cash, cash equivalents, and short-term investments: Beginning of year			202,956 <u>972,455</u>
End of Year			<u>\$1,175,411</u>

# Wisconsin Lawyers Mutual Insurance Company Compulsory and Security Surplus Calculation December 31, 2022

Assets Less liabilities		\$36,641,282 10,147,327
Adjusted surplus		26,493,955
Annual premium: Lines other than accident and health Factor	\$3,580,850 <u>20</u> %	
Compulsory surplus (subject to a minimum of \$2 million)		2,000,000
Compulsory Surplus Excess (Deficit)		<u>\$24,493,955</u>
Adjusted surplus (from above)		\$26,493,955
Security surplus (140% of compulsory surplus, factor reduced 1% for each \$33 million in premium written in excess of \$10 million, with a minimum factor of 110%)		2,800,000
Security Surplus Excess (Deficit)		<u>\$23,693,955</u>

### Wisconsin Mutual Insurance Company Analysis of Surplus For the Five-Year Period Ending December 31, 2022

The following schedule details items affecting surplus during the period under examination as

reported by the company in its filed annual statements:

	2022	2021	2020	2019	2018
Surplus, beginning of		<b>*</b> ~~ ~ ~ ~ ~ ~ ~ ~ ~ ~ ~ ~ ~ ~ ~ ~ ~ ~	<b>*</b> ~~ ~ ~ ~ ~ ~ ~ ~	<b>A A A A A A A A A A</b>	<b>A A A F A A A</b>
year	\$27,945,714	\$ 26,943,380	\$ 26,346,407	\$ 24,775,274	\$ 24,456,363
Net income	519,549	573,191	347,348	354,545	896,472
Change in net unrealized	(2.062.142)	475.922	221.303	1,208,214	(571 205)
capital gains/losses Change in net deferred	(2,063,142)	475,922	221,303	1,200,214	(571,295)
income tax	(59,030)	50,410	76.827	56,171	(12,864)
Change in nonadmitted		,	, (,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,	, , ,	. ,
assets	86,864	8,811	(48,505)	(47,797)	6,598
Change in provision for reinsurance	64,000	(106,000)			
Surplus, End of Year	<u>\$ 26,493,955</u>	<u>\$ 27,945,714</u>	<u>\$ 26,943,380</u>	<u>\$ 26,346,407</u>	<u>\$ 24,775,274</u>

### Growth of Wisconsin Mutual Insurance Company

Year	Admitted Assets	Liabilities	Surplus as Regards Policyholders	Net Income
2022	\$ 36,641,282	\$ 10,147,327	\$ 26,493,995	\$ 519,549
2021	39,481,959	11,536,245	27,945,714	573,191
2020	37,861,661	10,918,281	26,943,380	347,348
2019	36,180,743	9,834,336	26,346,407	354,545
2018	34,468,385	9,693,111	24,775,274	896,472
2017	34,755,758	10,299,395	24,456,363	911,015

Year	Gross Premium Written	Net Premium Written	Premium Earned	Loss and LAE Ratio	Expense Ratio	Combined Ratio
2022	\$ 4,495,898	\$ 3,481,747	\$ 3,444,021	66.1%	45.8%	111.9%
2021	4,519,989	3,723,740	3,818,557	82.1	51.1	133.2
2020	4,603,817	3,497,999	3,509,205	92.3	41.7	134.0
2019	4,764,152	3,825,883	3,849,177	66.0	38.7	104.7
2018	4,891,105	3,746,123	3,889,146	41.3	47.8	89.1
2017	5,188,806	3,935,851	4,007,157	55.6	43.2	98.8

The company has historically been stable and has posted consistent net income year after year. The company's expense ratio is higher than industry average (which has been below 30%), due to

the company's small size. The decrease in the company's combined ratio during the past year was due a lower Pure Net Loss Ratio (down 17.8 points from 2021) and slightly higher Pure Net LAE Ratio (up 0.9 points from 2021).

# Reconciliation of Surplus per Examination

No adjustments were made to surplus as a result of the examination. The amount of surplus reported by the company as of December 31, 2022, is accepted.

# **Examination Reclassifications**

No reclassifications were made as a result of the examination.

## **VII. SUMMARY OF EXAMINATION RESULTS**

#### **Compliance with Prior Examination Report Recommendations**

There were two specific comments and recommendations in the previous examination report.

Comments and recommendations contained in the last examination report and actions taken by the

company are as follows:

1. <u>Committee Charter and Bylaws</u>—It is recommended that the company comply with its Governance Committee charter and bylaws in regard to the frequency and intervals with which board and committee meetings take place.

Action—Compliance.

Investment Limitations—It is recommended that the company implement procedures to ensure that its invested assets comply with the limits set forth in s. Ins 6.20 (8) (k), Wis. Adm. Code, s. 620.23 (1), Wis. Stat., and s. 620.22 (9), Wis. Stat. If at any time the company's invested assets exceed these limitations, the company shall adjust its compulsory and security surplus calculation accordingly, in accordance with s. 620.21, Wis. Stat.

Action—Compliance.

#### Summary of Current Examination Results

This section contains comments and elaboration on those areas where adverse findings were noted or where unusual situations existed. Comment on the remaining areas of the company's operations is contained in the examination work papers.

### **Disaster Recovery Testing**

It was noted that the company has not performed formal disaster recovery (DR) testing. Disaster recovery testing is critical to the business as it will help identify areas of the DR plan that may be weak. It will also help people become familiar with the process in the event that the DR plan must be invoked. It is recommended that the company perform formal annual DR testing utilizing their new IT partners. Documentation of the DR testing should be reviewed for lessons learned and be retained for future reference.

### **VIII. CONCLUSION**

The company has historically been stable and has posted consistent net income year after year. The company's expense ratio is higher than the industry average (which has been below 30%), due to the company's small size. The decrease in the company's combined ratio during the past year was due to a lower Pure Net Loss Ratio (down 17.8 points from 2021) and a slightly higher Pure Net LAE Ratio (up 0.9 points from 2021).

# IX. SUMMARY OF COMMENTS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

1. Page 22 - <u>Disaster Recovery Testing--</u>It is recommended that the Company perform formal annual disaster recovery (DR) testing utilizing their new IT partners. Documentation of the DR testing should be reviewed for lessons learned and be retained for future reference.

### X. ACKNOWLEDGMENT

The courtesy and cooperation extended by the officers and employees of the

company during the course of the examination are acknowledged.

In addition to the undersigned, the following representatives of the Office of the

Commissioner of Insurance, State of Wisconsin, participated in the examination:

Name

Title

Cole Besteman Adam Donovan, CISSP Kongmeng Yang Jerry DeArmond, CFE Insurance Financial Examiner IT Specialist Quality Control Specialist Reserve Specialist

Respectfully submitted,

John Dagest

Joshua Daggett Examiner-in-Charge