Donald H. Benson David M. Lindley Walter C. Wyatt Robert M. Potter, III

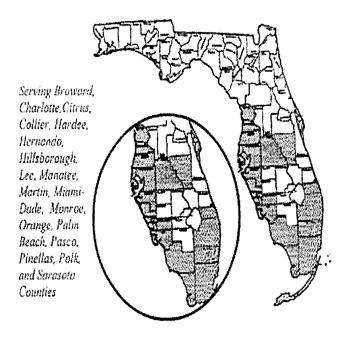


Joseph A. Bayliss, Sr.\* Jerome B. Blevins\* Joseph W. Bradham 1921-2008

\*Certified Circuit Civil

## **PIP Legalese**

Of Interest to industry
Insurance Defense Litigation Law Firm
FEBRUARY 2018



State Farm Mutual Automobile Insurance Company v. Shands Jacksonville Medical Center. Inc. 210 So.3d 1224 (Supreme Court of Florida, February 16, 2017) Personal Injury protection --Scope of permissible discovery under Section 627.736(6)( c) is limited to the production of documents described in subsection(6)(b) Accordingly, discovery is limited to production of "written report of the history, condition, treatment, dates, and costs of such treatment of the injured person and why items identified by insurer were reasonable in amount and medically necessary, together with a sworn statement," as well as production, inspection and copying of "records regarding such history, condition, treatment, dates, and costs of treatment" -- Subsection (6) provides limited pre-litigation discovery into specified information about treatment and charges for

treatment provided to injured party, and discovery tools found in Rules of Civil Procedure are not triggered until litigation over reasonableness of those charges has ensued -- Nothing in subsections (6) (b) or (c) contemplates requiring PIP provider to submit any of its representatives to deposition -- Trial court erred by ordering provider to make a designated corporate representative available for deposition.

William Joyce, et al., v. Federated National Insurance Company. 42 Fla. L. Weekly S852a (Supreme Court of Florida, October 19, 2017) Attorney's fees Contingency fee multiplier --The application of a contingency fee multiplier to an award of attorney's fees to a prevailing party is not limited to "rare" and "exceptional" Trial court properly applied 2.0 circumstances contingency fee multiplier to award of attorney's fees to insureds that prevailed in action against insurer upon finding that relevant market required contingency fee multiplier for insureds to obtain competent counsel, that insureds' attorney could not have mitigated the risk of nonpayment, that case was a complex commercial case, and that likelihood of success at the outset was even at best.

South Florida Orthopedic Associates (a/a/o Oscar Paramo) v. State Farm Mutual Automobile Insurance Company. 25 Fla. L. Weekly Supp. 87b (11th Judicial Circuit in and for Miami-Dade County, March 10, 2017) Personal injury protection -- Motion to dismiss for lack of standing is granted where insured assigned benefits to individual physician, not to plaintiff medical provider, and purported assignment only assigns right to collect payments, not right to bring direct action against insurer.