A Flood of Hurt

While listening to a speaker at the First Party Claims Conference in Rhode Island last October I vowed to bone up on flood insurance. I’d been marginally involved with state regulators at the NAIC in examining efforts to reform the National Flood Insurance program (NFIP). UP had been starting to educate consumers about pending changed enacted by Congress through Biggert-Waters 12, but as I listened to the speaker throwing around terms like “Pre-FIRM and Post-FIRM”, and explaining the special rules that apply to NFIP claims – I realized that UP needed to focus and beef up our offerings on this topic. NFIP policies are a world unto themselves. Not just the $250k limit, the basement exclusion and the absence of ALE coverage – but the highly technical exclusions, strictly enforced deadlines, formal, detailed and final sworn proofs of loss, limited legal remedies...a lot to grasp.

Then a few weeks later, Sandy hit and the crash course began. In the months that have followed, with lots of help, (thank you Dennis Abbott, Les Knox, Chip Merlin, Michael Miller, Clay Morrison, Dick Tutwiler and National Flood Insurance Summit presenters), I’ve come out the other side knowing more than the average bear about a topic that is now front and center in Colorado and New Mexico. See: Arial Video of Devestation by Colorado Floods

Here’s me on NPR last week: Flood-Damaged Homes:Who Pays?

Next week I’ll be in New Jersey for two Sandy recovery events: I’ll be teaching a UP Roadmap to Recovery™ workshop for homeowners, and I’ll join Harry Cummins and a New Jersey Division of Insurance staffer on a speaker panel educating legal services lawyers on helping clients perfect their NFIP claims before the anniversary of the disaster.

Here are two excellent Sandy claim checklists prepared by Touro Law Center’s Disaster Clinic Professor Ben Rajotte: Touro Law Insurance Checklists

For those following the tortured path of Biggert-Waters 12, check out grass roots activist George Kasimos’ recent video plea.
SERENITY NOW!

The information presented in this publication is for general informational purposes and is not a substitute for legal advice. If you have a specific legal issue or problem, United Policyholders recommends that you consult with an attorney. Guidance on hiring professional help can be found in the “Find Help” section of www.uphelp.org. United Policyholders does not sell insurance or certify, endorse or warrant any of the insurance products, vendors, or professionals identified on our website.

Source: https://uphelp.org/a-flood-of-hurt/ Date: August 22, 2022