STATE OF ARIZONA FILED

STATE OF ARIZONA

MAR 1 5 2000

DEPARTMENT OF INSURANCI	E
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DEPT. OF INSURANCE BY

2	DEPARTMENT OF INSURANCE
3	In the Matter of:
456	SUPERIOR NATIONAL INSURANCE COMPANY (NAIC No. 37753) Respondent. Docket Number 00A-041-INS ORDER SUMMARILY SUSPENDING CERTIFICATE OF AUTHORITY AND NOTICE OF HEARING
789	The Arizona Department of Insurance (the "Department") alleges that Superior National Insurance Company ("Respondent") has violated provisions of Arizona Revised Statutes ("A.R.S."),
0	Title 20. In light of the serious nature of these allegations, the Director of Insurance for the State of Arizona ("Director") finds that the public health, safety and welfare imperatively require emergency
2	action, within the meaning of A.R.S. §41-1092.11(B). THEREFORE, IT IS ORDERED summarily suspending the Arizona certificate of authority held
4	by Respondent, effective immediately, pending the proceedings commenced this date. EFFECTIVE this day of March, 2000.
6	CHARLES R. COHEN Director of Insurance
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NOTICE OF HEARING

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that pursuant to the provisions of A.R.S. §§ 20-165, 41-1061 through and including 41-1066 and 41-1092.01, the above-captioned matter will be heard before the Director of Insurance of the State of Arizona or his duly designated representative, on the 26th day of April, 2000, at 1:30 p.m., at the Office of Administrative Hearings, 1400 West Washington Street, Suite 101, Phoenix, Arizona 85007 (the "Hearing"). The hearing is being held more than thirty days from the date of this Notice because it is the first available date on the Office of Administrative Hearings' calendar.

Motions to continue this matter shall be made in writing to Administrative Law Judge Eric Bryant not less than fifteen (15) days prior to the date set for the hearing. A copy of any motion to continue shall be mailed or hand-delivered to the opposing party on the same date of filing with the Office of Administrative Hearings.

A.R.S. §20-164(B) entitles any person affected by this hearing to appear in person and by counsel, to be present during the giving of all evidence, to have a reasonable opportunity to inspect all documentary evidence, to examine witnesses, to present supporting evidence and to have subpoenas issued by the Administrative Law Judge to compel attendance of witnesses and production of evidence.

If Respondent is represented by counsel, the attorney shall be licensed to practice law in the State of Arizona or, Respondent is an insurer, it may be represented by a corporate officer, pursuant to A.R.S. §20-161(B).

Pursuant to A.R.S. §41-1092.07(D), a clear and accurate record of the proceedings will be made by a court reporter or by electronic means. Any party that requests a transcript of the proceeding shall pay the cost of the transcript to the court reporter or other transcriber.

Questions concerning issues raised in this Notice of Hearing should be directed to Assistant Attorney General Shelby L. Cuevas (602) 542-7725, 1275 West Washington Street, Phoenix, Arizona 85007.

NOTICE OF APPLICABLE RULES

On January 23, 1992, the Arizona Department of Insurance adopted A.A.C. R20-6-101 through 20-6-115, setting forth the rules of practice and procedure applicable in contested cases before the Director of Insurance. The hearing will be conducted pursuant to these rules.

PURSUANT TO A.A.C. R20-6-106, RESPONDENT SHALL FILE A WRITTEN ANSWER WITHIN 20 DAYS AFTER ISSUANCE OF THIS NOTICE OF HEARING AND SHALL MAIL OR DELIVER A COPY OF THE ANSWER TO THE ASSISTANT ATTORNEY GENERAL DESIGNATED ABOVE. THE ANSWER SHALL STATE RESPONDENT'S POSITION OR DEFENSE AND SHALL SPECIFICALLY ADMIT OR DENY EACH ASSERTION IN THE NOTICE OF HEARING. ANY ASSERTION NOT DENIED SHALL BE DEEMED TO BE ADMITTED. ANY DEFENSE NOT RAISED IN THE ANSWER SHALL BE DEEMED WAIVED. IF AN ANSWER IS NOT TIMELY FILED, RESPONDENT SHALL BE DEEMED IN DEFAULT AND THE DIRECTOR MAY DEEM THE ALLEGATIONS ARE TRUE, AND TAKE WHATEVER ACTION IS APPROPRIATE, INCLUDING SUSPENSION OR REVOCATION OF A CERTIFICATE OF AUTHORITY, IMPOSITION OF A CIVIL PENALTY AND/OR RESTITUTION TO ANY PARTY INJURED.

PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES MAY REQUEST REASONABLE ACCOMMODATIONS SUCH AS INTERPRETERS, ALTERNATIVE FORMATS, OR ASSISTANCE WITH PHYSICAL ACCESSIBILITY. REQUESTS FOR ACCOMMODATIONS SHOULD BE MADE AS EARLY AS

POSSIBLE TO ALLOW TIME TO ARRANGE THE ACCOMMODATIONS. IF YOU REQUIRE ACCOMMODATIONS, PLEASE CONTACT THE OFFICE OF ADMINISTRATIVE HEARINGS AT (602) 542-9826.

The Department alleges:

- 1. Superior National Insurance Company ("Respondent") is domiciled in California and presently holds a certificate of authority issued by the Arizona Department of Insurance ("Department") to transact property casualty insurance and is authorized to write workers' compensation insurance.
- 2. On or about March 2, 2000, the Insurance Commissioner of the State of California ("California Commissioner") issued a Seizure Order against Respondent for the summary seizure of all property, business, books, records and accounts, offices and premises pursuant to California Insurance Code Section 1013. The Commissioner determined the following: that Respondent is in such condition that the further transaction of business will be, and is, hazardous to its policyholders, creditors and the public; that Respondent is insolvent within the meaning of the California Insurance Code; that Respondent does not meet the requirements of issuance to it of a certificate of authority; and that irreparable loss or injury to the property and business of Respondent has or may occur unless the Commissioner acts immediately to take possession. A copy of the Seizure Order is attached hereto as Exhibit A.
- 3. On or about March 6, 2000, the Superior Court of the State of California, County of Los Angeles issued an Ex Parte Order appointing Conservator and Restraining Orders appointing the California Commissioner as the Conservator for Respondent. A copy of the Order Appointing Conservator is attached hereto as Exhibit B.
 - 4. Respondent is in an unsound condition or in such as to render its further transaction of

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insurance in this state hazardous to the policyholders or to the people of this state, within the meaning of A.R.S. §20-220(A)(3) and A.A.C. R20-6-308.

5. Respondent no longer meets the requirements for the authority originally granted, on account of deficiency in assets or otherwise within the meaning of A.R.S. §20-219(2)

WHEREFORE, if after hearing the Director makes a finding of one or more of the abovedescribed allegations, the Director may suspend or revoke Respondent's certificate of authority pursuant to A.R.S. §§20-219 and 20-220(A)(3)

Pursuant to A.R.S. §20-150, the Director of Insurance delegates the authority vested in the Director of Insurance of the State of Arizona, whether implied or expressed, to the Director of the Office of Administrative Hearings or his designee to preside over the hearing of this matter as the Administrative Law Judge, to make written recommendations to the Director of Insurance consisting of proposed findings of fact, proposed conclusions of law and a proposed order. This delegation does not include delegation of the authority of the Director of Insurance to make the order on hearing or other final decision in this matter.

Pursuant to A.R.S. §41-1092.01, your hearing will be conducted through the Office of Administrative Hearings, an independent agency. Enclosed is a copy of the procedures to be followed DATED this day of March, 2000.

CHARLES R. COHEN

Director of Insurance

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2	COPY of the foregoing mailed/hand-delivered this <u>15th</u> day of March, 2000, to:
3	Sara M. Begley, Deputy Director Gerrie M. Marks, Executive Assistant
4	Gary A. Torticill, Assistant Director/Chief Examiner
5	Deloris Williamson, Assistant Director Arizona Department of Insurance
5	2910 N. 44 th Street, Suite 210
6	Phoenix, Arizona 85018
7	California Department of Insurance
	300 Capitol Mall, Suite 1500
8	Sacramento, California 95814
9	California Department of Insurance
	Ronald Reagan Building
10	300 South Spring Street
	Los Angeles, California
11	
	Bill Lockyer, Attorney General
12	Richard W. Bakke
	Mark P. Richelson
13	W. Dean Freeman
	Office of the California Attorney General
14	300 South Spring Street, Room 5212
1.5	Los Angeles, California 90013
15	Challes I. Conservation A. A. A. A. Conservation of the Conservati
1.0	Shelby L. Cuevas, Assistant Attorney General
16	Consumer Protection & Advocacy Section
17	Office of the Arizona Attorney General
17	1275 West Washington Street Phoenix, Arizona 85007
18	Thoenix, Arizona 85007
10	Superior National Insurance Company
19	P.O. Box 9850
19	Calabasas, California 91372-9850
20	Cuitousus, Cuitotina 71372 7030
20	Eric Bryant, Administrative Law Judge
21	Office of Administrative Hearings
	1400 West Washington, Suite 101
22	Phoenix, Arizona 85007
SC0000000	12 2 2 2

S. David Childers
Low & Childers
2999 North 44th Street, Suite 250
Phoenix, Arizona 85018

Curvey Walters Burton

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Printed on Recycled Paper burglary, credit, sprinkler, ream and vehicle, automobile, aircraft, and miscellaneous insurance in

California under the authority of a Certificate of Authority issued by the Commissioner. By

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virtue of Insurance Code sections 700.01, 700.02, 700.025 and 700.05, Respondent is required to have unimpaired paid-in capital of \$2,600,000 and surplus of not less than \$2,800,000, for a total capital and surplus of \$5,400,000. By virtue of Insurance Code section 985, Respondent is insolvent whenever provision for its liabilities and for reinsurance of all outstanding risks would impair its capital paid-in of \$2,600,000.

- 2. Respondent requires a Certificate of Authority from the Commissioner for the transaction of its insurance business and is subject to examination by the Commissioner under the provisions of Article 4, Chapter 1, Part 2, Division 1, of the Insurance Code (sections 730-738), and for these reasons is one of the "persons" subject to Article 14, Chapter 1, Part 2, Division 1 of the Insurance Code (sections 1010-1062).
- 3. Applicant has conducted a limited scope financial examination of Respondent, with its permission, to determine its financial condition as of December 31, 1999. As a result of the examination, the Commissioner has determined that as of December 31, 1999, Respondent had total assets of \$240,276,000 and total liabilities of \$280,596,000, creating a negative surplus of \$40,320,000. A negative surplus is less than the minimum amount of capital and surplus required by Insurance Code section 700.01 for an insurer transacting the classes of insurance authorized by the Certificate of Authority issued by the Commissioner to Respondent. Pursuant to Insurance Code section 985, Respondent is statutorily insolvent and such condition is ground for conservation under Insurance Code section 1011(i).
- 4. Respondent is wholly owned by a holding company entitled Business Insurance Group, Inc., which in turn is wholly owned by a holding company entitled Superior National Insurance Group, Inc. ("Superior Group.") On February 28, 2000, the Commissioner received a letter from the President and Chief Executive Officer of Superior Group which stated, "Please be advised that pursuant to California Insurance Code Section 988, I am advising you that ... [Respondent and related insurers] are impaired in that a financial situation exists in which the Companies [Respondent and others] assets are less than the sum of its minimum required capital, minimum required surplus and all liabilities as determined in accordance with the requirements for the preparation and filing of its annual statement." By virtue of having assets less than its minimum

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Printed on Recycled Paper required capital and minimum required surplus, Respondent is insolvent within the meaning of Insurance Code Section 985.

- 5. In accordance with Insurance Code section 1013, the Commissioner determines as follows:
- (a) Respondent is in such condition that the further transaction of business by Respondent will be, and is, hazardous to its policyholders, creditors, and the public, and such condition is a ground for conservatorship under Insurance Code section 1011(d);
- (b) Respondent is insolvent within the meaning of Insurance Code section 985 and such insolvency is ground for conservatorship under Insurance Code section 1011(i);
- (c) By reason of its insolvency, Respondent does not meet the requirements for issuance to it of a Certificate of Authority and such condition is a ground for conservatorship under Insurance Code section 1011(h); and
- (d) Irreparable loss and injury to the property and business of Respondent has or may occur unless the Commissioner acts immediately to take possession.

SUMMARY SEIZURE

- 1. Pursuant to the authority provided in California Insurance Code Section 1013, the Commissioner hereby summarily seizes and takes possession of the property, business, books, records and accounts of Respondent, and of the offices and premises occupied by Respondent for the transaction of business, the Commissioner shall retain such possession subject to order of the Superior Court.
- 2. The Commissioner hereby orders, pursuant to the authority provided in California
 Insurance Code Section 1014, that the sheriffs of Sacramento, Santa Clara, Sonoma, Alameda,
 Contra Costa, Fresno, Los Angeles, Orange, Ventura, San Diego Counties, and the police
 departments of such municipal corporations therein, furnish such deputies, officers or patrolmen
 as may be necessary to assist the Commissioner in making and enforcing this summary seizure of
 Respondent.

3. Pursuant to California Insurance Code Section 1013, any person having possession of and refusing to deliver any of the books, records or assets of Respondent shall be guilty of a misdemeanor and punishable by a fine not exceeding \$1,000.00 or imprisonment not exceeding one year, or both such fine and imprisonment.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and have affixed my official seal day of March, 2000.



CHUCK QUACKENBUSH

Deputy Insurance Commissioner

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NO. 2961

ORIGINAL

BILL LOCKYER Attorney General RICHARD W. BAKKE Supervising Deputy Attorney General MARK P. RICHELSON, SBN 58121 W. DEAN FREEMAN, SBN 73869 Deputy Attorney General 4 State Bar No. 58121 300 South Spring Street, Room 5212 Los Angeles, California 90013 Telephone: (213) 897-2482 6

Fax: (213) 897-5775

MAR 06 2000

John A. Clarke, Clerk and Horden BY C.L. HUDSON, DEPUTY

Attorneys for Applicant Insurance Commissioner of testate of California

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA FOR THE COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES

INSURANCE COMMISSIONER OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA,

Applicant,

Case No.: BS 061974

EX PARTE ORDER APPOINTING CONSERVATOR AND RESTRAINING ORDERS

SUPERIOR NATIONAL INSURANCE COMPANY,

Respondent,

MARCH 6, 2000 Date:

Time: 8:30 a.m. Place: DEPT. 86

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The Verified Application of the Insurance Commissioner of the State of California for an Order Appointing Conservator of Respondent Superior National Insurance Company having been filed herein and it appearing to this Court from the Verified Application that the Insurance Commissioner has found Superior National Insurance Company to be in such a condition that its further transaction of business will be hazardous to its creditors and the public; is insolvent; and, does not comply with the requirements for the issuance of a certificate of authority.

IT IS HEREBY ORDERED:

(1) The Insurance Commissioner of the State of California, Applicant, is appointed Conservator of Respondent, and directed as such to conduct the business of Respondent or so much thereof as to said Conservator may seem appropriate; and authorizing Commissioner as

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such Conservator, in his discretion, to pay or defer payment of all proper claims and all obligations against Respondent accruing prior to or subsequent to his appointment as Conservator;

- (2) That said Commissioner forthwith take possession of all of Respondent's assets, books, records, and property, both real and personal, wheresoever situated;
- (3) That there is hereby vested in said Conservator and his successors in office title to all of said property and assets of Respondent, wheresoever situated, in the Commissioner or his successor in office, in his official capacity as Conservator and enjoining all persons from interfering with the Commissioner's possession and title thereto;
- (4) That said Respondent, its officers, directors, governors, agents and employees are hereby enjoined from transacting any of the business of Respondent, whether in the State of California or elsewhere, or from disposing of any or assisting any person in the transfer or alienation of the property or assets until further order of this court;
- (5) That all persons are hereby enjoined from instituting, prosecuting or maintaining any action or proceeding in law or suit in equity, including but not limited to actions or proceedings to compel discovery or production of documents or testimony, matters in arbitration against the Respondent or the Commissioner as Conservator, except for matters before the Workers Compensation Appeals Board, and from attaching, executing foreclosure upon, redeeming of or taking any other legal proceedings against any of the property of Respondent, and from doing any act interfering with the conduct of said business by the Commissioner, except after an order from this Court obtained after reasonable notice to the Commissioner;
- (6) That all officers, directors, agents and employees of Respondent deliver to the Commissioner all assets, books, records, equipment and other property of Respondent, wheresoever situated;
- (7) That the Conservator is authorized to pay all reasonable costs of operating Respondent as Conservator (including direct and allocated direct costs, direct and allocated general and administrative costs and overhead, and other allocated costs) out of funds and assets of Respondent;

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- (8) That all funds and assets including certificates of deposit and bank accounts in the name of Respondent in various financial depositary institutions including banks, savings and loan associations, industrial loan companies, mutual funds or stock brokerages, in the State of California or elsewhere, be vested in the Commissioner and subject to withdrawal upon his order only;
- (9) That all persons all persons who maintain records for Respondent, pursuant to written contract or any other agreement to maintain such records, are ordered to deliver such records to the Commissioner upon his request;
- (10) That all agents of Respondent and all brokers who have done business with Respondent are ordered make all remittances of funds collected by them or in their hards directly to the Commissioner as Conservator;
- (11) That all persons having possession of any lists of policyholders of Respondent are ordered to deliver all such lists to the Commissioner as Conservator; that all persons are enjoined from using any such lists or any information contained therein without the consent of the Conservator;
- (12) The Conservator is authorized to initiate such equitable or legal actions or proceedings in this or other states as may appear to him necessary to carry out his functions as Conservator:
- (13) The Conservator is authorized to appoint and employ special deputies, estate managers, other professionals, clerks and assistants and to give each of them such power and authority as may by him be deemed necessary, and authorizing the Commissioner to compensate these persons from the assets of Respondent as to him shall seem appropriate;
- (14) The Conservator is authorized to divert, take possession of and secure all mail of Respondent in order to screen such mail, and to effect a change in the rights to use any and all post office boxes and other mail collection facilities used by Respondent;
- (15) That the Respondent and its respective officers, directors, agents, servants, employees, successors, assigns, affiliates, and other persons or entities under their control and all persons or entities in active concert or participation with them, and each of them, are ordered to

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turn over to the Conservator records, documentation, charts and/or descriptive material of all funds, assets, property owned beneficially or otherwise, and all other assets of Respondent wherever situated, and all books and records of accounts, title documents and other documents in their possession or under their control, which relate, directly or indirectly, to assets or property of Respondent belonging to or now held by Respondent or any of them or to the business or operations of Respondent;

- (16) That except with leave of court issued after a hearing in which the Conservator has received reasonable notice all persons are enjoined from executing or issuing or causing the execution or issuance of any court attachment, subpoena, replevin, execution or other process for the purpose of impounding or taking possession of or interfering with or creating or enforcing a lien upon any property owned or in the possession of Respondent or its affiliates, or the conservator appointed herein, wheresoever situated;
- (17) That except by leave of court, obtained after reasonable notice to the conservator that all persons are enjoined from accelerating the due date of any obligation or claimed obligation; exercising any right of set-off; taking, retaining, retaking or attempting to retake possession of any real or personal property; withholding or diverting any rent or other obligation; doing any act or other thing whatsoever to interfere with the possession of or management by the conservator herein and of the property and assets, owned or controlled by Respondent or in the possession of Respondent or to in any way interfere with said Conservator or to interfere in any manner during the pendency of this proceeding with the exclusive jurisdiction of this Court over Respondent;
- (18) That any and all provisions of any agreement entered into by and between any third party and Respondent including, by way of illustration, but not limited to, the following types of agreements (as well as any amendments, assignments, or modifications thereto): financial guarantee bonds, promissory notes, loan agreements, security agreements, deeds of trust, mortgages, indemnification agreements, subrogation agreements, subordination agreements, pledge agreements, assignments of rents or other collateral, financial statements, letters of credit, leases, insurance policies, guaranties, escrow agreements, management agreements, real estate

brokerage and rental agreements, servicing agreements, attornment agreements, consulting agreements, easement agreements, license agreements, franchise agreements, or employment contracts that provide in any manner that selection, appointment or retention of a conservator, or trustee by any court, or entry of an order such as hereby made, shall be deemed to be, otherwise operate as a breach, violation, event of default, termination, event of dissolution, event of acceleration, insolvency, bankruptcy, or liquidation, shall be stayed, and the assertion of any and all rights, remedies relating thereto shall also be stayed and barred, except as otherwise ordered by the Court, and the Court shall retain jurisdiction over any cause of action that has arisen or may otherwise arise under any such provision;

- (19) The Commissioner is authorized to invest Respondent's assets in such a manner as to him may seem suitable for the best interest of Respondent's creditors which funds are not immediately distributable to Respondent's creditors. However no investment or reinvestment shall be made which exceeds the sum of \$100,000 without first obtaining permission of the court;
- (20) The Commissioner is authorized to pay for his costs in bringing and maintaining this action, and such other actions as are necessary to carry out his functions as Conservator, out of the funds and assets of Respondent;
- (21) That pursuant to Insurance Code section 1037(g), the Commissioner as Conservator is authorized to invest and reinvest all assets in a manner he deems to be in the best interest of the creditors of the estate, including investing and reinvesting assets through an investment pool consisting exclusively of assets from conserved estates. To the extent that the Commissioner invests and reinvents through such an investment pool, such investments and reinvestments may exceed \$100,000;
 - (22) For such other or further orders as may be proper.

DATED: March 6, 2000

JUDGE OF THE SUPERIOR COURT

NO. 2961 P. 13



THE COMMENT TO VARIOH THE CERTIFICATE IS

IT I AND SO IS A FULL TRUE AND CORRECT COPY

OF THE ORIGINAL ON FLE AND OF RECORD IN

MY OFFICE.

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JOHN & CLARKE
Executive Officer I Dept of the Superior
Count of California, County of Los Angeles.

M. CORONA