

**For Immediate Release****July 1, 2009****Mark Haire Named Deputy Commissioner
of Mississippi Insurance Department**

Jackson -Mississippi Insurance Department (MID) General Counsel Mark Haire was officially named Deputy Commissioner of Insurance by Commissioner Mike Chaney today.

“I am pleased to have someone of Mark’s stature and background as my Deputy Commissioner. His professionalism and dedication to this Department has earned him much respect from the industry and from our legislature. Together we will continue working to keep the MID moving forward in serving the consumers of this state,” Chaney said.

Haire, a Mississippi native, is a graduate of Mississippi College and Mississippi College School of Law. He began his legal career as a law clerk for the firm of Kitchens & Pickard, and practiced briefly with the Shannon Law Firm in Hazlehurst, Mississippi, before joining MID as a staff attorney in 1987. In his role as a staff attorney, Haire provided legal advice and assistance to the Commissioner, Deputy Commissioner, and all divisions and units within MID.

From 1992-1997, Haire served as staff counsel at Blue Cross Blue Shield of Mississippi, and returned to MID as a Special Assistant Attorney General in 1997. He was named General Counsel of MID in 2001, and had been serving as Acting Deputy Commissioner since January of this year.

As General Counsel, he managed MID’s legal division; conducted regulatory reviews of company mergers and acquisitions; represented MID in administrative hearings and receivership

proceedings; participated on various task forces and working groups at the National Association of Insurance Commissioners; and served as liaison with outside counsel.

“I believe Mark’s background and extensive regulatory experience make him well qualified to serve as Deputy Commissioner as MID continues to address the crucial insurance issues that are vital to Mississippi’s economic welfare,” Chaney said.

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