

Overview of AIA Trust Risk Management Tools

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In its role as a risk management resource for members, the AIA Trust works with a wide variety of important participants in the risk management arena—ranging from the AIA Risk Management Committee and allied organizations such as the National Society of Professional Engineers (NSPE), to brokers and administrators such as Schinnerer and AGIA, as well as independent consultants and experts to advise the Trust on important risk issues.

Often, the result of these working relationships is reports and resources on vital topics of interest to AIA Members—ranging from the annual survey of the professional liability insurance industry to white papers on vital topics of architectural practice.

Architects confront risks daily – at many levels. From working with employees and maintaining your own office space to working with clients and contractors on job sites – along with all the regulatory and legislative requirements that frequently change – the risks are real and substantial.

The AIA Trust is comprised of AIA members just like yourself - who work to help the AIA member architect understand these risks, how to avoid them, and how to deal with them. How does the Trust do that? The AIA Trust...

- **Offers** [educational seminars](#) through AIA components on risk management issues – and sponsors AIA Convention seminars on current topics. Members may earn LU's through the Trust web site.
- **Commissions** [White Papers](#) by subject matter experts on cutting edge topics pertaining to the changing risk issues of architectural practice – such as using new 'green' products, managing your electronic data, and how technology is affecting the perception and reality of the Standard of Care.
- **Identifies** and makes available [timely information](#) vital to architects making wise business decisions – such as the impact of healthcare reform on employers, the survey of professional liability insurers, an insurance guide for those starting a firm – even a summary on Professional Employer Organizations (PEO) and how they may assist an architect in managing a small firm.
- **Offers** incentives – including discounts, free insurance coverage, and free reports – to new 'starter' firms via the [new webinar](#) on the AIA Trust website.
- **Summarizes** current risk management issues in brief, easy-to-read format in quarterly, [electronic newsletter articles](#), sent to firm owners & managers.
- **Assists** those starting new firms to identify and resolve risks by providing an overview of insurance coverage issues & solutions in [Making the Transition to Running Your Own Firm](#).

- **Works** with independent consultants and approved criteria to identify & select the best possible insurance programs aimed at small firms that don't have the staff to evaluate and administer benefits.
- **Develops** specialized benefits to address member needs, such as offering a *5% membership premium credit* to eligible firms for professional liability insurance, *First Dollar Defense* coverage to defend small firms without additional expense, and *multi-year policies* for firms with revenues under \$250,000 annually.
- **Provides** through the CNA/Schinnerer **Business Owners Insurance** program general and property liability protection for architectural offices including off-premises business property; coverage for computers, laptops and cell phones worldwide; and coverage to recreate lost drawings, plans, valuable papers, and records.
- **Customizes** legal information for architectural firms by offering [LegalLine](#), a **legal information service** at a minimal annual cost (equivalent to a few hours of billable legal time) that enables the member to access an attorney-architect who offers critical information for managing day-to-day risks such as contract negotiation, dispute resolution, profitable joint ventures, incorporation, and employment matters.
- **Offers** a turn-key program with low cost opportunities for the small firm or sole-proprietor to plan for retirement with the **AIA Members Retirement Program** through AXA/Equitable. In addition, the Trust website offers [retirement and financial planning guides](#).
- **Covers** members, their employees and their families through a wide variety of excellent **individual and employee insurance** options, including health, dental, life, and disability insurance. In addition, personal coverage for auto, home, and identity are available – and many other options. [The AIA Trust](#) reviews each program regularly to ensure it offers competitive rates and a high level of coverage, service and reliability for AIA members.

The AIA Trust website is a comprehensive resource to help AIA members identify and manage risks – before the risks manage them. Review all the Trust can offer you and your employees – by visiting [The AIA Trust](#) today – or call 202-626-7376 for more information or questions.