

**For Immediate Release**

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**IMUA HONORS THREE AT 86<sup>th</sup> ANNUAL MEETING**  
**Rich Soja Receives IMUA Lifetime Achievement Award**

**New York, NY, May 31, 2016** – Rich Soja, Senior Vice President of Tokio Marine Management and a former Chairman of the IMUA Board of Directors, was presented with a Lifetime Achievement Award at the Association’s 86<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting held earlier this month. Rich was one of three individuals recognized by the IMUA at this year’s Annual Meeting. The others included Alexander McGinley, Vice President U.S. Marine, XL Catlin – Excellence in Education; and Michelle Blank, Assistant Vice President, Property, Machinery and Marine, Chubb – 2016 Outstanding Committee Person.

The Awards presentation took place at the IMUA’s closing ceremonies during its 86<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting held in San Diego, CA.

In presenting Rich with IMUA’s highest recognition, Don Keahon of Aspen Insurance and IMUA Board Member cited his long list of achievements since joining the IMUA. In particular, he noted, “Rich has is a true industry leader who has unselfishly contributed a great deal of his time and effort over the years to make IMUA a more professional and effective organization.”

Rich has been actively engaged in IMUA business since the year 2000, joining the IMUA Education Committee. He was elected to the Board of Directors in 2001 and went on to become Chair of the Board from 2008 to 2010. Today, Rich is a member of the IMUA Professional Development Steering Committee and the Board of Directors.

In addition to committee and Board service, Rich has been an outstanding presenter/instructor for numerous IMUA education events. He recently developed and co-presented an excellent seminar on Tools & Techniques for Premium Development. Rich has been at the forefront of IMUA’s strategy to involve producers, speaking on behalf of IMUA at agent association conferences.

“During his tenure as an IMUA officer and Chair of the Board of Directors, Rich demonstrated outstanding leadership skills. He was instrumental in re-vitalizing the IMUA business model

— from Board of Director meetings to staff responsibilities. Rich made attracting the next generation of industry professionals one of the cornerstones of his term as chair. He called for the formation of the GenX GenY Committee to help facilitate that objective,” said IMUA President & CEO Kevin O’Brien.

In accepting his award, Rich said, “It has been a privilege and an honor to serve both this industry and the IMUA. I have never viewed my participation as an obligation, but rather as a means of helping others in their professional development. As an association we can only be as effective as our membership allows. That is why I became involved with the IMUA and have continued ever since. And, I strongly urge our members to continue to carry the mantle forward and work for the betterment of this great association.”

As the winner of the Excellence in Education Award, Alexander McGinley was recognized for his key contributions to advancing the education and training platform of IMUA. He was the chair of IMUA’s Webinar Committee for five years and continues to be actively engaged in the IMUA Annual Meeting Education Committee.

“Over the years, Alexander has demonstrated a commitment to enhance IMUA’s professional development curriculum. During his tenure as chair of the Webinar Committee Alexander actively led IMUA’s efforts to deliver education through the internet. He was instrumental in elevating the quality, relevance and frequency of the IMUA webinars. Today the webinar format is a primary education delivery mechanism for IMUA,” said Kevin.

Michelle Blank, Outstanding Committee Person Award winner, is the chair of the IMUA Southeast Regional Advisory Committee. She has been a committee member for 14 years and is in her fourth year as chair.

“Michelle is a dedicated supporter of IMUA with a genuine interest in making it a better organization. Under her leadership, the IMUA Southeast Annual Seminar has flourished and is a highly regarded industry event,” notes Kevin.

The Southeast is a very strong regional group for IMUA. The annual seminar typically attracts 80 – 100 attendees. Under Michelle’s leadership, the committee continues to work cohesively and effectively delivering high-quality education events.

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IMUA is the national association for the commercial inland marine insurance industry. IMUA serves as the voice of its member companies representing over 90 percent of all commercial inland marine insurers. The association provides its members with comprehensive training and educational programs, including research papers and bulletins, industry analysis and seminars. IMUA was founded in 1930.