



Joan T. Schmit
1994-1995

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Joan T. Schmit is Associate Professor of Risk Management and Insurance and holder of the American Family Insurance Professorship in Risk Management and Insurance at the University of Wisconsin-Madison. She received bachelor's and master's degrees at the University of Wisconsin-Madison in risk management and insurance before working for Rockwell International as a risk management analyst. She continued her studies in risk and insurance at Indiana University, where she received her Ph.D. in 1984. Her dissertation involved the documentation and analysis of efforts by workers to erode their employers' exclusive liability under workers' compensation for workplace injuries.

From 1984 to 1988, Dr. Schmit was an Assistant Professor of Insurance at the University of South Carolina. During this time, she began studying various aspects of the U.S. liability system. Among her research topics are the relationship between the size of punitive damage judgments and defendant financial status, the role of insurance in the dissolution of various forms of immunity from liability, the import of *stare decisis* to insurers, the incidence of joint and several liability in cases included in the National Reporter System, and the effect of tort reforms passed during the 1980s on the frequency of claims filed for liability.

In 1988 Dr. Schmit joined the Risk Management and Insurance faculty at the University of Wisconsin-Madison, where she continues to reside. While continuing to study various liability issues, Dr. Schmit has also been active in classroom instruction. She teaches an introductory risk management and insurance course, which annually accommodates 300-400 students, as well as various upper-level undergraduate and graduate courses. In addition, she has initiated a teaching workshop series for the School of Business and is involved in promoting excellence in instruction across campus.

Dr. Schmit has also been active in other professional associations. She has held each of the offices of the Risk Theory Society and was a board member of the Southern Risk and Insurance Association.

Her work has been published extensively in insurance and legal journals, including the *Journal of Risk and Insurance*, *CPCU Journal*, *Journal of Insurance Regulation*, and *Marquette Law Review*. In addition, Dr. Schmit is coauthor with Travis Pritchett and James Athearn of the textbook *Risk and Insurance* and is an assistant editor of the *CPCU Journal*.

During the 1993-1994 academic year, Dr. Schmit was a scholar-in-residence at the University of Virginia Law School in Charlottesville. This serious study of law has provided her with new opportunities for research and teaching.

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