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### Insurance Coverage Issues

#### By: Michael J. Smith, Esq.



#### Who Is Potentially Affected By Welding Rod Litigation In The Insurance Context?

- Liability Insurers Of Welding Rod Manufacturers, Distributors, Designers, Retailers, Importers, Trade Associations, Consumers, Industrial Users
- Reinsurers
- Workers' Compensation Insurers
- D&O Insurers



## Coverage Issues

- General Principles
- Trigger of Coverage
  - Manifestation
  - Exposure
  - Injury-In-Fact
  - Continuous/Triple Trigger
- Notice

# Coverage Issues The Pollution Exclusion

- Classification of Welding Fumes as "pollutant"
- "Traditional" Environmental/Industrial (Outdoor) Pollution v. "Non-Traditional" (Indoor) Pollution Claims (i.e., carbon monoxide, lead paint, biological organism/raw sewage)



#### **Discussion of Select Cases**

National Electrical Manufacturers Association v. Gulf Underwriters Insurance Company, 162 F.3d 821 (4<sup>th</sup> Cir. 1998). Air Products and Chemicals Inc. v. Hartford Accident and Indemnity Company, the Liberty Mutual Insurance Company and Aetna Casualty and Surety Company, et al., 25 F.3d 177 (3<sup>rd</sup> Cir. 1994).

#### <u>The Lincoln Electric Co. v. St. Paul</u> <u>Fire & Marine Ins. Co., 210 F.3d</u> 672 (6th Cir. 2000)

MacKinnon v. Truck Insurance Exchange, 31 Cal.4<sup>th</sup> 635, 3 Cal. Rptr. 228 (2003) <u>Bechtel Petroleum Operations, Inc.</u> <u>v. Continental Ins. Co., 117</u> Cal.Rptr.2d 399 (Cal. App., 2d Dist. 2002)

\* Dismissed/Remanded; May not be cited

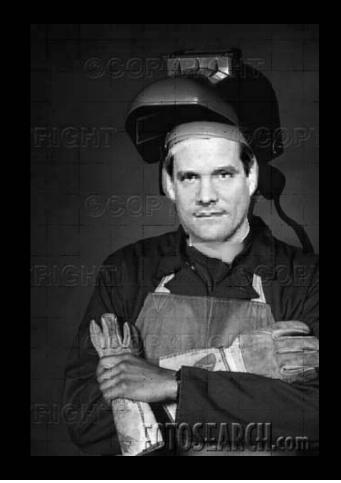
#### Belt Painting Corp. v. TIG Insurance Company, 100 N.Y.2d 377, 795 N.E.2d 15 (2003).

#### **Other Issues**

- Products Liability/Completed Operations
- Knowledge-Based Defenses
- Punitive Damages



## Who Should Handle Your Welding Rod Litigation Insurance Coverage Disputes?







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