

## LAWYER-MEDICINE CONNECTION

**W**ITH EMPLOYER HEALTH CARE COSTS expected to rise up to 15 percent in 2004, *Expansion Management* thought it would be timely to add some medical measures to our table, including a ranking of states, lowest to highest, in medical malpractice premiums.

We also tabulated data from the American Medical Association that outlines which states are either facing medical liability problems or a full-blown medical liability crisis.

A few findings as noted in the chart:

➤ Among the nine states with the highest number of lawyers per capita, four are paying the highest, or close to the highest, medical malpractice premiums.

➤ Among the top 20 states with the highest number of lawyers per capita, only three are not in a medical liability crisis as defined by the American Medical Association.

➤ States with the lowest number of lawyers per capita have their own problems. Four of the bottom 12 states (least number of lawyers) have the worst legal liability systems in the United States.

## HOW THE STATES STACK UP IN ATTORNEY COUNTS, ECONOMIC GROWTH AND MALPRACTICE MEASURES

| Ranking of states w/ most lawyers per capita | State/District       | No. of lawyers per 100K population | Ranking of states GDP increase — biggest to smallest rank | Ranking of best to worst legal systems | Ranking of lowest to highest malpractice premiums | AMA states in crisis <sup>1</sup> |
|--|----------------------|------------------------------------|---|--|---|-----------------------------------|
| 1  | District of Columbia | 2143.1                             | 25 <sup>2</sup>   | NA                                     | 14  | p                                 |
| 2  | Maryland             | 546.5                              | 21  | 21                                     | 35  | p                                 |
| 3  | New York             | 497.1                              | 14  | 22                                     | 51  | c                                 |
| 4  | Massachusetts        | 467.0                              | 7   | 28                                     | 37  | p                                 |
| 5  | Virginia             | 450.5                              | 20  | 3                                      | 34  | p                                 |
| 6  | New Jersey           | 439.1                              | 27  | 26                                     | 45  | c                                 |
| 7  | Connecticut          | 429.0                              | 22  | 18                                     | 32  | c                                 |
| 8  | Illinois             | 381.9                              | 32  | 44                                     | 48  | c                                 |
| 9  | California           | 344.7                              | 5   | 46                                     | 49  | ok                                |
| 10   | Colorado             | 344.0                              | 4   | 13                                     | 30  | ok                                |
| 11   | Rhode Island         | 327.7                              | 19  | 36                                     | 10  | p                                 |
| 12   | Louisiana            | 309.0                              | 47  | 47                                     | 27  | ok                                |
| 13   | Vermont              | 303.0                              | 12  | 20                                     | 5   | p                                 |
| 14   | Hawaii               | 302.5                              | 49  | 39                                     | 13  | p                                 |
| 15   | Pennsylvania         | 298.8                              | 37  | 30                                     | 44  | c                                 |
| 16   | Minnesota            | 298.4                              | 18  | 8                                      | 22  | p                                 |
| 17   | Alaska               | 297.5                              | 50  | 33                                     | 1   | p                                 |
| 18   | Florida              | 290.4                              | 16  | 38                                     | 50  | c                                 |
| 19   | Washington           | 284.3                              | 15  | 24                                     | 36  | c                                 |
| 20   | Kansas               | 271.3                              | 33  | 9                                      | 18  | p                                 |
| 21   | Delaware             | 271.2                              | 9   | 1                                      | 6   | p                                 |
| 22   | Texas                | 261.8                              | 16  | 45                                     | 47  | c                                 |
| 23   | Oklahoma             | 257.9                              | 36  | 31                                     | 11  | p                                 |
| 24   | Georgia              | 256.2                              | 11  | 29                                     | 43  | c                                 |
| 25   | Ohio                 | 255.0                              | 43  | 32                                     | 46  | c                                 |
| 26   | Montana              | 253.3                              | 34  | 43                                     | 9   | p                                 |
| 27   | New Mexico           | 250.4                              | 23  | 37                                     | 15  | ok                                |
| 28   | New Hampshire        | 246.4                              | 6   | 7                                      | 12  | p                                 |
| 29   | Oregon               | 245.2                              | 1   | 27                                     | 21  | c                                 |
| 30   | Wyoming              | 245.0                              | 24  | 15                                     | 4   | c                                 |
| 31   | Missouri             | 243.2                              | 40  | 41                                     | 39  | c                                 |
| 32   | Nevada               | 236.2                              | 7   | 34                                     | 24  | c                                 |
| 33   | Michigan             | 232.0                              | 44  | 23                                     | 41  | p                                 |
| 34   | Arizona              | 231.1                              | 2   | 14                                     | 38  | p                                 |
| 35   | Nebraska             | 224.1                              | 39  | 2                                      | 8   | p                                 |
| 36   | Maine                | 223.9                              | 26  | 12                                     | 17  | p                                 |
| 37   | West Virginia        | 222.0                              | 48  | 49                                     | 29  | c                                 |
| 38   | Utah                 | 216.5                              | 10  | 6                                      | 19  | p                                 |
| 39   | Tennessee            | 208.4                              | 30  | 25                                     | 42  | p                                 |
| 40   | Alabama              | 206.9                              | 40  | 48                                     | 33  | p                                 |
| 41   | Kentucky             | 205.6                              | 37  | 35                                     | 31  | c                                 |
| 42   | Idaho                | 199.4                              | 3   | 5                                      | 7   | p                                 |
| 43   | Wisconsin            | 199.0                              | 25  | 10                                     | 25  | ok                                |
| 44   | Mississippi          | 191.2                              | 46  | 50                                     | 28  | c                                 |
| 45   | Iowa                 | 190.9                              | 45  | 4                                      | 23  | p                                 |
| 46   | Indiana              | 189.9                              | 35  | 11                                     | 26  | ok                                |
| 47   | North Carolina       | 181.9                              | 29  | 19                                     | 40  | c                                 |
| 48   | North Dakota         | 172.8                              | 31  | 16                                     | 3   | p                                 |
| 49   | South Dakota         | 170.2                              | 13  | 17                                     | 2   | p                                 |
| 50   | South Carolina       | 167.5                              | 28  | 40                                     | 16  | p                                 |
| 51   | Arkansas             | 159.5                              | 42  | 42                                     | 20  | c                                 |

Sources: U.S. Census Bureau, Morgan Quitno Press, ILR/Hamis Interactive, Insurance Information Institute, American Medical Association

<sup>1</sup>For AMA states in crisis/malpractice assessment, the acronyms are: p=problem, c=crisis, ok=currenty ok, AMA

<sup>2</sup>Approximate ranking based on data in 2004 State Rankings volume. For ranking of legal liability systems in the U.S., a score of 1 is best system; a score of 50 is worst.