

## **Program Producer Panic**

### **Copyright Infringement**

Copyright infringement and misappropriation of likeness were threatened after a small independent film producer failed to procure the requisite licensing for a documentary about one of America's funniest actresses, which had been broadcast on a cable station. The documentary relied heavily upon television clips from the deceased actress' popular sitcom. The network that owned the rights to the clips was not amused – and neither were the estate of the actress, the cablecaster of the alleged infringing work nor the distribution company that had already negotiated an agreement for the documentary's video rights. After significant saber-rattling by the lawyers for several years, the statute of limitation ran barring the filing of any litigation. Even though the producer dodged the big bullet, legal expenses exhausted his \$10,000 retention, and he was never able to further distribute the documentary.

### **Negligence (Contextual Errors and Omissions)**

A rigorous exercise video led to physical injuries by exercise enthusiasts and negligence claims against the producer. The broad form errors and omissions endorsement provided coverage for the bodily injury claims.