



THE INSURANCE LIBRARY

TWENTY-THIRD ANNUAL

INSURANCE PROFESSIONAL OF THE YEAR AWARD GALA

HONORING

MIKE CHRISTIAN

NOVEMBER 13, 2025

INTERCONTINENTAL BOSTON

MIKE CHRISTIAN

Mike Christian is the Founder and Chairman of Risk Strategies, a leading national risk management and insurance brokerage firm. He founded the company in 1997 on the premise that an insurance brokerage could be a business where a focus on employee and customer needs would create value and success. He served as its Chief Executive Officer until 2019, and then as its Chairman.

Mike was responsible for the development and execution of the company's business and growth strategy, recruiting, customer service approach, and mergers and acquisitions. He led the company from its start-up beginnings into a nationally prominent firm offering comprehensive risk management advice and insurance and reinsurance placement.

A native of California, Mike majored in philosophy at the University of California at Santa Barbara. He began his insurance career as an underwriter, and holds CPCU, CLU, and ARM designations. Before founding Risk Strategies, he was Managing Director for Alexander & Alexander/Aon and held leadership positions at Jardine Insurance Brokers, including serving on its U.S. Board of Directors. He was inducted into the Insurance Business America Hall of Fame in 2020. Mike is on the boards of the Council of Insurance Agents & Brokers and The Council Foundation.

A long-time Boston-area resident, Mike is known for his community service with non-profit organizations focused on children's causes, arts and entertainment, and education. For more than 25 years, he has served as Board President of Someone Else's Child, which supports youth causes throughout the United States, Central America, and Africa. He is the Managing Partner for Community Impact Ventures, a venture capital impact fund that provides financial support to social entrepreneurs and not-for-profit companies that have missions similar to that of Someone Else's Child. He also serves on the boards of Northeast Arc, Rwanda Youth Partners, Yiya Solutions, and Boston Explorers, a non-profit serving Boston-area kids and teens.

Mike is Chairman of the Board of the Boch Center/Wang Theater, is on the board of the Folk Americana Roots Hall of Fame, and is a board member of the Point32Health Foundation.

We congratulate Mike on his many insurance, business, and philanthropic accomplishments.

**2025 INSURANCE PROFESSIONAL
OF THE YEAR**



MIKE CHRISTIAN
FOUNDER & CHAIRMAN
RISK STRATEGIES

IPYA

2025

THE INSURANCE LIBRARY

What We Are

The Insurance Library Association of Boston was founded in 1887, just a few blocks from its current location on State Street in Boston's Financial District. It is the country's first and only remaining independent library dedicated solely to the subject of insurance.

The Library has a unique collection of print and digital insurance-related materials, including historic insurance policies and forms, journals and other periodicals, monographs, legal treatises, government reports, financial and statistical information, including A.M. Best Reports dating to 1900, and an extensive collection of Sanborn maps. The Library also has insurance memorabilia and artifacts reflecting the history of insurance.

The Library is open to consumers wishing to do on-site research, and we provide consumers referred to the Library by the Massachusetts Division of Insurance with pro bono research services by an experienced research librarian.

More Than Just a Library

While we are proud of our 138-year role as an insurance reference and research resource, we are more than just a library. Since its founding, the Library has evolved into a premier provider of insurance education programs and as a hub for insurance-related engagement and networking events.

The Insurance Library provides an array of education programs—including webinars and in-person classes, licensing exam preparation courses, and virtual or in-person custom in-house classes and courses for insurers, agents and brokers, and others. The Library is an approved provider of producer continuing education classes in all six New England states.

We also provide engagement events, including today's signature event--the Insurance Professional of the Year Award Gala--a biennial Insurance Library Scavenger Hunt, the Nancy Z. Bender Award for customer or community service, and our popular Summer Intern Program, which offers education programs, networking opportunities, and special events for summer interns and early-career professionals working for member organizations.

The Insurance Library

Based in Boston. National in scope.

More Than Just a Library

OUR MISSION & VISION

Our Mission

Our mission is to provide members of the insurance, financial security, risk management, and legal communities, and the public, with high-quality educational programming, opportunities for engagement and networking, and unique research resources and services.

Our Vision

The Library's vision is to be recognized as the preeminent nonprofit provider of such educational programs and other services, build upon our unique position as a hub for networking and engagement, and continue to expand our reach nationally.



Broker's Box from the 1928 Lloyd's building in London
-Donated to the Library in 2014 by Wallace E. Sisson-

The Insurance Library is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit corporation and public charity. We do not receive any public funds. We rely solely upon membership dues, revenue from our paid educational programs and research services, sponsorships of our major events and programs, and, most significantly, the generosity of donors to our annual fund.

As always, please do not hesitate to let us know how we may best serve your needs. If you have never visited the Library, please plan to stop by.

LIBRARY OFFICERS

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THE INSURANCE PROFESSIONAL OF THE YEAR AWARD



RICHARD B. SIMCHES,
FORMER LIBRARY PRESIDENT,
TRUSTEE, AND LONG-TIME
SUPPORTER

The Insurance Library's Insurance Professional of the Year Award annually recognizes an insurance professional who demonstrates outstanding leadership and exemplifies qualities that foster commitment to, understanding of, and respect for the insurance industry.

Richard Simches, the founder of Safety Insurance Company, served the Library for many years, including most significantly as its President and as Chair of the Library's Board of Trustees. Dick believed that it was important to recognize outstanding individuals in the insurance industry and, to that end, he

supported the renewal of the tradition of an award such as that given by the Boston Board of Fire Underwriters starting in the 1950s and continuing through 1996.

The Insurance Professional of the Year Award was first made possible by a provision of the Richard B. Simches Fund, which was established in 2001.

The recipient of the award is determined each year by a selection committee comprised of representatives of the Library and a cross-section of the insurance community. Among the criteria for the award are that the recipient has earned the respect and admiration of the insurance community and is recognized as honest, hardworking, and public-spirited. This year marks the twenty-third time the award has been given.

The Library is delighted to bestow the award this year on Mike Christian in recognition of his outstanding leadership, accomplishments, and passion for the insurance industry and his community.

PAST INSURANCE PROFESSIONAL OF THE YEAR AWARD RECIPIENTS



William B Hofmann (2002)



Daniel J. Johnston (2006)



John B. Connors (2003)



John K. Golembeski (2007)



David J. Lane (2004)



Ronald Mariano (2008)



Ralph Iannaco (2005)



Richard W. Brewer (2009)

PAST INSURANCE PROFESSIONAL OF THE YEAR AWARD RECIPIENTS



Michael J. Sabbagh (2010)



Francis A. Mancini (2014)



Sandra G. Parrillo (2011)



John A. Myers (2015)



Hope A. Aldrich (2012)



Charles J. Brophy (2016)



Francis X. Bellotti (2013)



Timothy F. Hegarty (2017)

PAST INSURANCE PROFESSIONAL OF THE YEAR AWARD RECIPIENTS



J. Bruce Cochran (2018)



Mary Boyd (2022)



Nancy Z. Bender (2019)



Daniel C. Bridge (2023)



K. Douglas Briggs (2021)



Royce M. Cross (2024)



Congratulations Mike Christian

*Founder & Chairman, Risk Strategies,
Part of the Brown & Brown Team*

Risk Strategies proudly celebrates Mike Christian as The Insurance Library's 2025 Insurance Professional of the Year.

His leadership and contributions to business excellence and philanthropy have made a lasting impact on the insurance industry.

On behalf of the entire Risk Strategies family, we honor his well-deserved recognition with gratitude and pride.

NEXT GEN



Some participants from the Library's 2025 Summer Program for member organization interns and early-career professionals, shown here at the 2025 Ice Cream Sundae Social sponsored by Quincy Mutual Group.

One of our priorities at the Library is to expand opportunities for students and early-career insurance, financial security, risk management, and legal professionals to take advantage of the Library's education programs, resources, and networking and engagement events as they begin and progress in their careers.

Thanks to the generous support of our Event Patron and Arlington, Berkeley, and Clarendon sponsors we are able once again to offer complimentary seats at a NextGen table for students or young professionals who otherwise might not be able to join us.

In addition, we thank the Christian family for donating all seats from their sponsored tables with the request that we seek to fill them with students and young professionals.

EVENT PATRON

Thank you to our Event Patron for its extraordinarily generous support of today's gala, including sponsorship of the Risk Strategies logo cookies.



PART OF THE BROWN & BROWN TEAM

2025 ARLINGTON SPONSORS

**Thank you to our Arlington Sponsors
for generously supporting today's
gala, including sponsorship of the
chocolate bar favors.**

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COMPANIES®**



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Thank you to our Berkeley Sponsors for generously supporting today's gala, including sponsorship of the coffee and tea service.



THE
CHRISTIAN FAMILY



2025 CLARENDON SPONSORS

Thank you to our Clarendon Sponsors for generously supporting today's gala, including sponsorship of the check-in, nametags, and coat check.



Holland & Knight



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Agency



**Thank you to our Dartmouth and
Exeter Sponsors for generously
supporting today's gala.**

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MAPFRE Insurance
MPIUA
N&D | Union Mutual Insurance
Plymouth Rock Assurance
Providence Mutual
Sompo
Zurich

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DONATIONS IN HONOR OF MIKE CHRISTIAN

As of November 10, 2025

**Thank you to the following
individuals and organizations for
their generous donations to the
Library in honor of Mike Christian.**

**DANIEL C. BRIDGE
ABIGAIL KRUEGER
NARRAGANSETT BAY INSURANCE CO.**

KELSO

SICA|FLETCHER
Opportunities Abound

**To donate to the Library in honor of
Mike Christian, please scan this QR code.**



SILENT AUCTION

Thank you to the following donors of items for the Silent Auction

A.I.M. Mutual Insurance Companies	HUB International New England
The Andover Companies	InterContinental Boston
Arbella Insurance Group	Let's Roam
Amir Bagherzadeh	Jean & Jim Lucey
Bender Hatch Insurance	Lucozzi Portraits
Nancy Bender	Mallory Portraits
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Kathy Corey	Risk Strategies
Cross Insurance	Risman Insurance Agencies
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eMaxx Assurance Group	Torres, Scammon, Hincks & Day
Bryan Falchuk	Toscana
Freeman Mathis & Gary	The Trustees of Reservations
Sarah Hart	Vermont Mutual Insurance Group
Hospitality Insurance Group	

Silent Auction bidding ends at 1:15 p.m. sharp!

Scan this code for a list of auction items.



**After the conclusion of the award ceremony, please
check the boards near the nametag table to see if
you are a successful bidder.**

**The Library accepts payment for auction purchases
by check, credit card, and Venmo. Thank you for
your patience for any wait to pay for items.**

IN MEMORIAM

Each year we take a moment to remember the insurance professionals who passed away since we last gathered here. Below are the names of some of those professionals who made a mark in the insurance community or had a special connection with the Library.

**Rocco Basso
William H. Brooks
Gregory G. Deimling
Joseph D. Duffy
Kevin H. Kelley
Peter T. Robertson**

Francis X. Bellotti



This year we take special notice of the passing of Frank Bellotti, the 2013 recipient of the Insurance Professional of the Year Award, who passed away at the age of 101. Mr. Bellotti led a storied career in politics, law, and business, including serving as Lieutenant Governor and three terms as Attorney General of Massachusetts. He later was Of Counsel to the law firm Mintz Levin and helped found Arbella Insurance Group, where he served as vice chairman until his death.

LOOKING BACK AT THE 2024 IPYA GALA



SCAN THIS CODE FOR MORE
PHOTOS OF THE 2024 GALA



UPCOMING LIBRARY EVENTS



The Insurance Library Association of Boston Annual Meeting of Members of the Corporation

November 19, 2025, 10:00 a.m.
156 State Street, Boston, Massachusetts

The Insurance Library / Boston Chapter CPCU Society Holiday Open House

December 10, 2025, 4:30–6:30 p.m.
Rsvp by December 1, 2025, to events@insurancelibrary.org

Virtual Lunch & Learn with Deloitte

Leandro DalleMule, Managing Director, AI & Data Practice
Ten AI Best Practices in Insurance
January 28, 2026, 12:30–1:30 p.m.

2026 Annual Fund Drive Begins

February 2026

Virtual Launch & Learn with Prof. Patricia McCoy

Sharing Risk: The Path to Economic Well-Being for All
February 24, 2026, 12:30–1:30 p.m.

Nominations Open for the 2026

Nancy Z. Bender Award

February 2026

Nominations Open for the 2026

Insurance Professional of the Year Award

April 2026

5th Annual Summer Intern Program

*Including an Ice Cream Social &
Professional Headshot Session*

June--August 2026

2026 Insurance Professional of the Year Award Gala

Fall 2026

UPCOMING WEBINARS

Professional Liability Insurance for Lawyers

Herbert Fuchs
November 20, 2025, 1:00–3:00 p.m.

Emerging Issues in Commercial Insurance

Cathy Trischan, CPCU, CIC, CRM, AU, AAI, CRIS, ARM, MLIS, TRIP
December 18, 2025, 1:00–3:00 p.m.

Excellence in First-Party Property Claims Handling

Barry Zalma, Esq, CFE
January 22, 2026, 1:00–3:00 p.m.

When the Flood Hits

Kym Martell, CRM, CIC, CRIS, AAI, MLIS
February 12, 2026, 1:00–3:00 p.m.

The above webinars are sponsored by **The Andover Companies,
Cross Insurance, Safety Insurance &
Vermont Mutual Insurance Group.**

To register for a webinar, please visit our website
or scan the code below.



UPCOMING COLLABORATIONS

Massachusetts RIMS Annual Educational Conference Presented in Collaboration with The Insurance Library

Full-day, in-person
March 19, 2026

Untangling Coverage: A Practical Guide to Your First Insurance Dispute Presented by The Insurance Library and Social Law Library

Nina Kallen, Attorney at Law
Webinar
June 2, 2026, 4:00–6:00 p.m.

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MENU

*Artisan Lettuce, Toasted Cashews, Dry Aged Vermont
Goat Cheese, Dried Blueberries, Yam Frites,
Maple Vinaigrette*

~~~

*Pomegranate Glazed Chicken Breast, Roasted  
Butternut Squash, Crispy Brussels Sprouts,  
Couscous with Cranberries & Pistachios,  
Pomegranate Molasses Reduction*

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Coffee & Tea

Wine by the glass is available for purchase at the bars.

If you did not pre-order wine and now wish to purchase bottles of house red, white, or rosé for your table, please give your request and credit card to a member of the wait staff.

Please alert the wait staff if you have a food allergy or have requested a vegetarian meal, even if you previously communicated that to us.

The **Risk Strategies** logo sugar cookies from Shrewsbury-based **Wicked Good Cookies** contain no peanuts, tree nuts, or nut products, but are produced in a facility that bakes products that contain peanuts, tree nuts, or nut products.

The **Arlington Sponsors** chocolate bar is from **Tony's Chocolonely**. Tony's is dedicated to helping cocoa farmers achieve sustainability and a living income, and to ending all forms of exploitation in the cocoa industry, including child labor and forced labor. Tony's classic chocolate bar may contain gluten and nuts.

HONORED GUESTS

SUSANNE DILLMAN

President, Boston CPCU Society Chapter

EDWARD DONAHUE, JR.

President & CEO, Life Insurance Association of Massachusetts

CHRISTOPHER FITTS

Chair, Massachusetts Association of Insurance Agents

DAVID HERSHEY

President, Massachusetts Risk & Insurance Management Society

AMBER MERCER

President, National African American Insurance Association,
Boston Chapter

BRIAN NOBLE

President, The New England 1752 Club

PHYLLIS RIORDAN

President, Massachusetts Association of Insurance Women

SARAH SCHNETTLER

Sr. Vice President - Member Experience, National Association
of Mutual Insurance Companies

CHRISTOPHER STARK

Executive Director, Massachusetts & Rhode Island
Insurance Federation

IPYA

2025

WELCOME

MICHAEL PEZZA JR.

Executive Director, The Insurance Library

HOST

NANCY ADAMS

Member, Mintz Levin

Trustee and Counsel, The Insurance Library

MOMENT OF REFLECTION

LESLIE EMACK

Sr. Vice President, Risk Strategies

Trustee, The Insurance Library

SPEAKERS

JEFF KAPLAN

Sr. Vice President, Family Office Practice Leader,
Northeast, Risk Strategies

JOHN JENNINGS

CEO, Jencap Group, and CEO, Galway Specialty Holdings

JULIA CHRISTIAN

Operations & Communications Manager,
Make-A-Wish Vermont & Northeast New York

AWARD PRESENTATION

MICHAEL PEZZA JR.

REMARKS BY AWARD RECIPIENT

MIKE CHRISTIAN

CONCLUDING REMARKS

NANCY ADAMS