### What to Do When the IRS Comes Calling: **Lessons from the Acuity Court Case**

Casualty Loss Reserve Seminar San Diego, CA September 15, 2014









#### **Outline**

- IRS Recent Audit History
- Why the Insurance Industry?
  - Income
  - Loss Reserve Releases
- Typical Characteristics of Audited Companies
- "Isn't This Just a Timing Issue?"
- Other Considerations

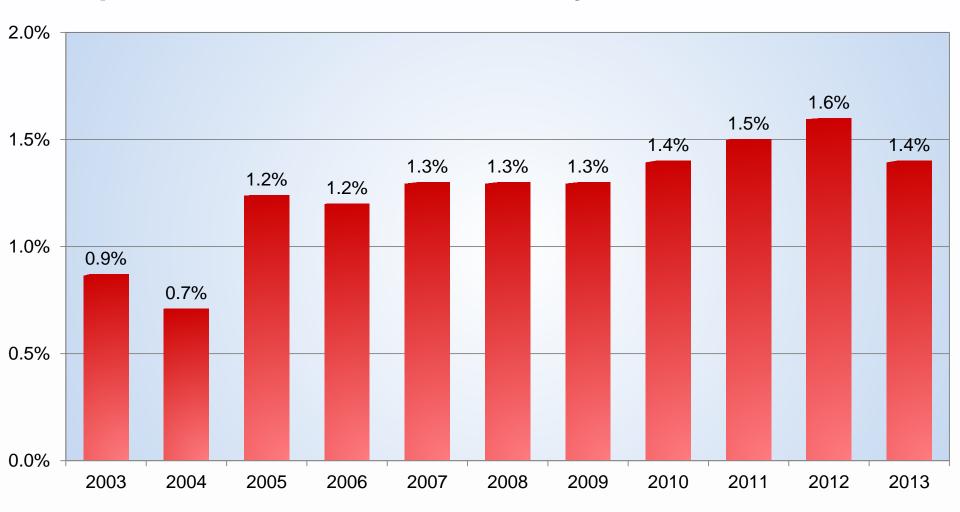


**Audit Rates and Macroeconomic Context** 

### IRS RECENT AUDIT HISTORY



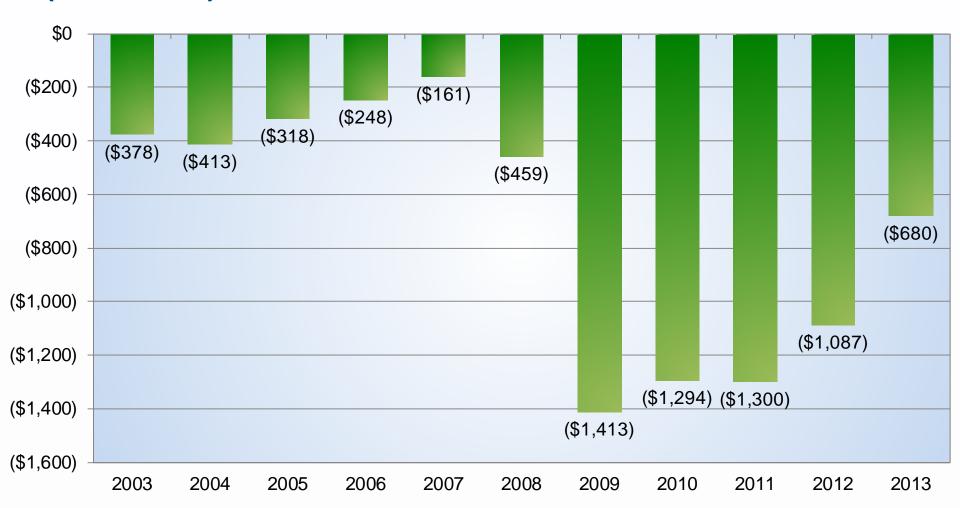
# IRS Returns – Audit Rates by Fiscal Year Corporate Income Tax Returns Only



Source: IRS Data Books, successive years.



# Federal Deficit (In Billions)



**Source: Congressional Budget Office** 



A Discussion of Reserve Development

# WHY THE INSURANCE INDUSTRY?



### **Industry Reserve Development**

### **Excluding Mortgage & Financial Guaranty Net Loss & ALAE (In Billions), by Calendar Year**



1996 1997 1998 1999 2000 2001 2002 2003 2004 2005 2006 2007 2008 2009 2010 2011 2012 2013



### **Industry Reserve Development**

Net Loss & ALAE (In Billions), by Calendar Year Split Between "Prior" and "Recent" Accident Years

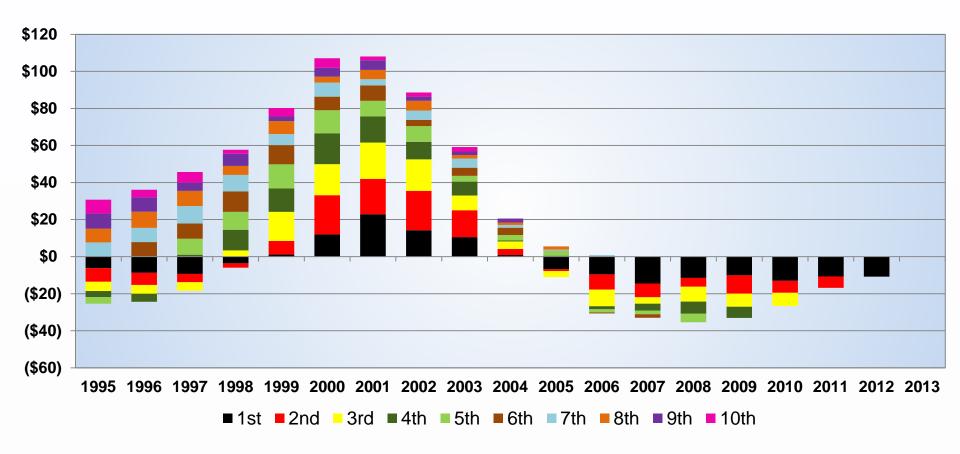


Source: Milliman analysis of Property & Casualty Statutory Annual Statements Excludes Mortgage & Financial Guaranty



### Statement Year Development By Calendar Period, as of December

By Calendar Period, as of December 31, 2013 Net Loss & ALAE (In Billions)





### Development by Statement Year Net Loss & ALAE (In Billions) As of December 31, 2013



Source: Milliman analysis of Property & Casualty Statutory Annual Statements Excludes Mortgage & Financial Guaranty



Property & Casualty Industry – Audited Companies

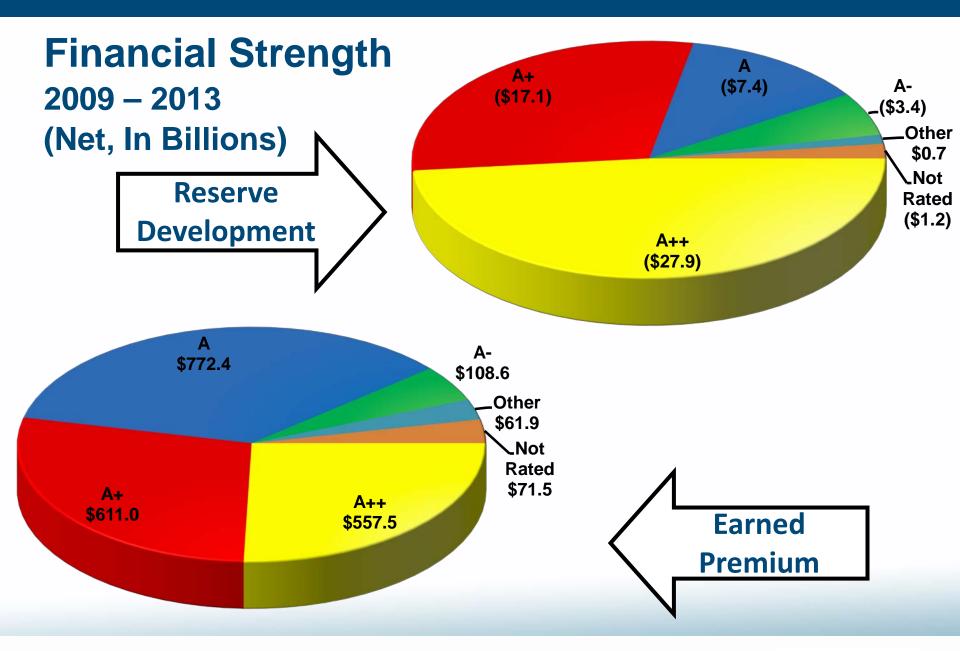
### **TYPICAL CHARACTERISTICS**



### **Typical Characteristics**

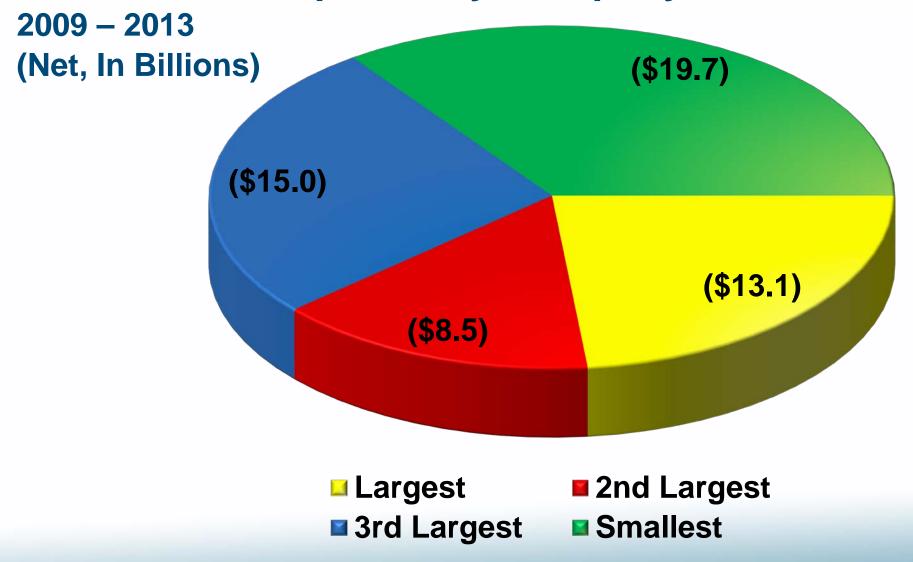
- Well run, financially sound
  - "A" rated or better
- Often mutual insurers
- Size threshold
  - \$100 million+ net earned premium
- Both multi-line and mono-line writers







### Reserve Development by Company Size





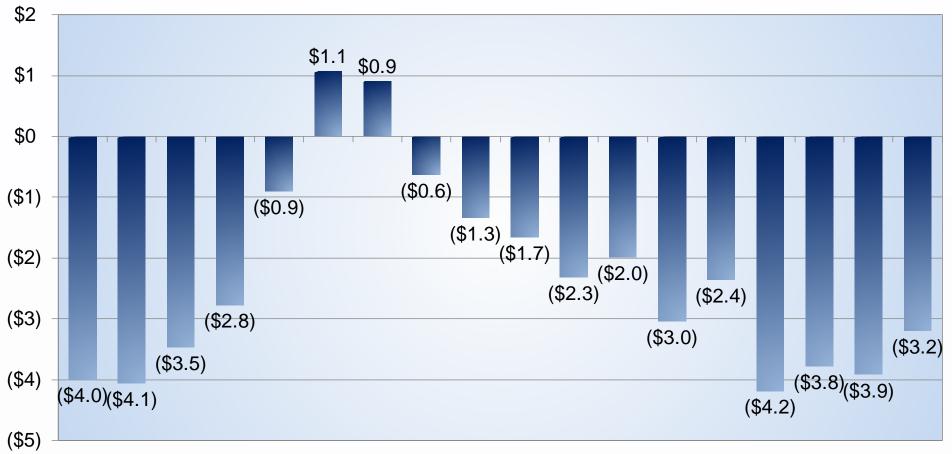
#### **Line of Business** 2009 - 2013**Comm Auto** MPL (Net, In Billions) (\$0.3)(\$10.4)Other (\$13.3)Work **CMP** Comp (\$4.3)\$1.5\_ Reserve GL (\$3.7)**Development Personal Auto Homeowners** (\$11.2) **Auto Phys** (\$6.1)Dam **Comm Auto** MPL (\$8.5) \$84.5 \$44.7 Work Comp. **CMP** \$179.2 \$150.8 GL Other \$196.2 \$357.8 **Homeowners** \$327.4 **Earned Personal Auto Auto Phys** \$498.3 Dam **Premium** \$344.0





### Mutual Companies Only

### Calendar Year Reserve Development Net Loss and ALAE, In Billions

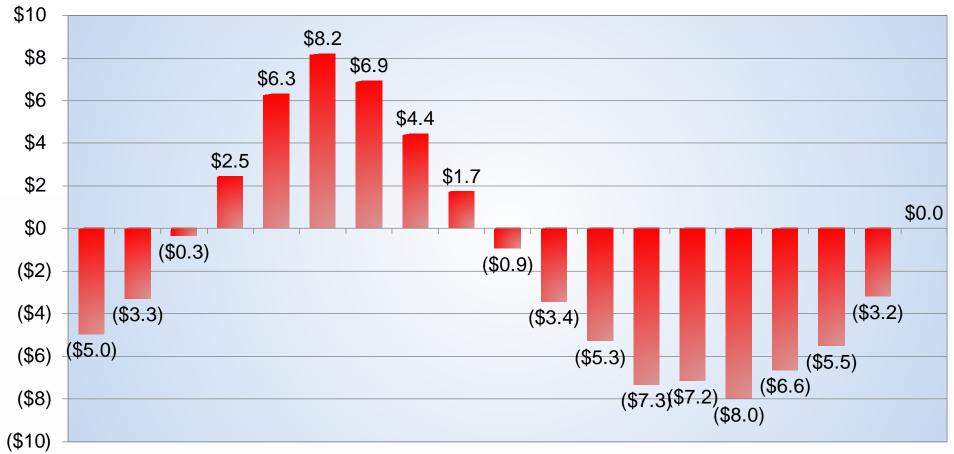


1996 1997 1998 1999 2000 2001 2002 2003 2004 2005 2006 2007 2008 2009 2010 2011 2012 2013



### **Mutual Companies Only**

### Statement Year Reserve Development Net Loss and ALAE, In Billions, as of December 31, 2013



1995 1996 1997 1998 1999 2000 2001 2002 2003 2004 2005 2006 2007 2008 2009 2010 2011 2012 2013



# "ISN'T THIS JUST A TIMING ISSUE?"



## "Isn't this Just a Timing Issue?" In Some Ways, Yes

- Eventually, reserves develop to ultimate
  - Over the long term, income will be recognized
- Settlements with IRS affect subsequent tax years
  - Example: settlement of 2011 will affect 2012 tax
    - 2011 income increases, 2012 income decreases
  - However...
    - Requires claiming a refund
    - Can continue to audit subsequent years
    - IRS unlikely to settle subsequent years immediately



## "Isn't this Just a Timing Issue?" In Other Ways, No

- Audits consume companies' time and expense
- High interest rate on deficiencies
  - Currently 5% for "large corporate underpayments"
  - Has been as high as 10% for 2006 tax year
- IRS wasn't actively auditing reserves in prior years
  - Can't collect interest on prior year "overpayments"
  - Even if you could…
    - Interest rate on overpayments 4.5% less
    - So currently 0.5%
  - And reserve audits will likely slow again



### **SUMMARY OBSERVATIONS**



### **Summary Observations**

- P&C Industry Likely Not Over-Reserved
  - In hindsight, 1995 2004 statement years under-reserved
  - 2005 & subsequent statement years
    - Have run off favorably to date
    - But will likely develop adversely due to tail liabilities
- Typical Characteristics of Audited Companies
  - Medium size
  - Mutual structure
  - Financially sound
- Not Simply a Timing Issue
  - High interest rate on underpayments
  - Reserves audited selectively



### **OTHER CONSIDERATIONS**



#### **Other Considerations**

#### Accompanying Oral Discussion

 This document is not complete without the accompanying oral discussion and explanation of the underlying information and concepts as well as any interpretational limitations.

#### Limited Distribution

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or in part, without the express written consent of Milliman.

#### Data Reliance

We have relied upon data and other background information provided by the Internal Revenue Service, Congressional Budget Office, and SNL Financial without audit or independent verification. We have performed a limited review of the data for reasonableness and consistency and have not found material defects in the data. If there are material defects in the data, it is possible that they would be uncovered by a detailed, systematic review and comparison of the data to search for data values that are questionable or relationships that are materially inconsistent. Such a review was beyond the scope of our assignment.

