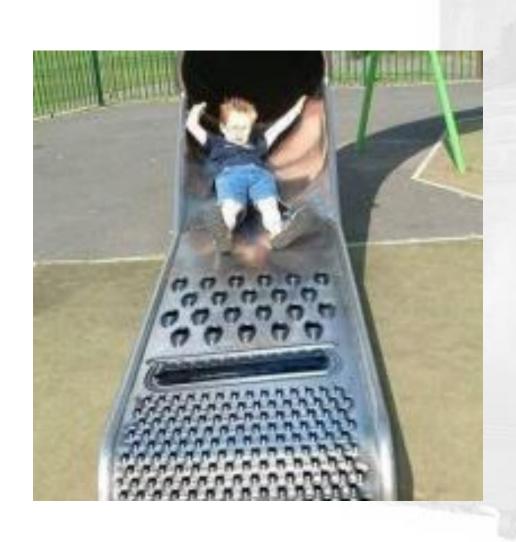


Anatomy of a Surety Claim

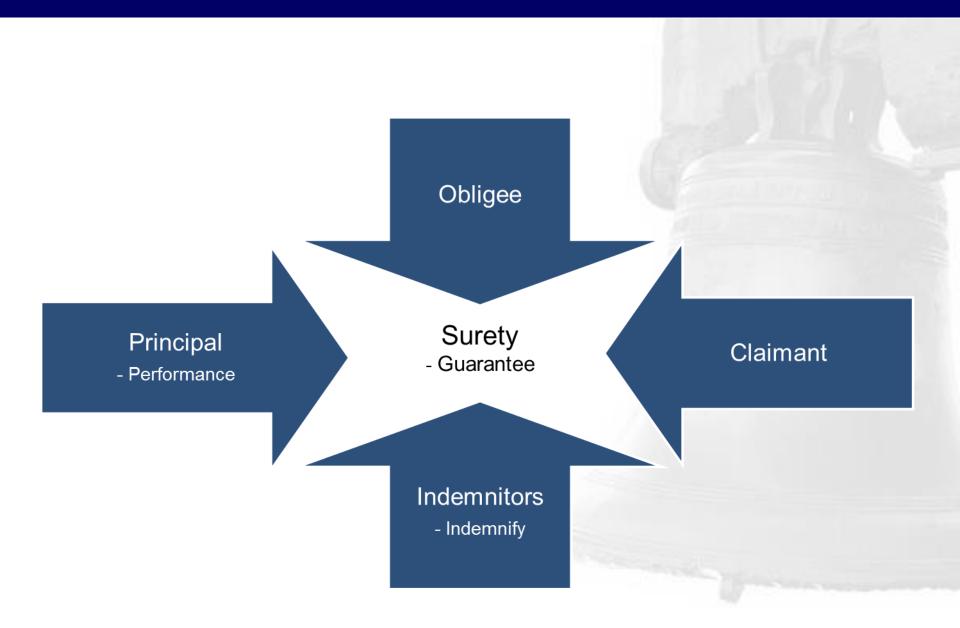




A day in the life of Claims...



The Players



Origin of Claims

Why do contractors fail?

- Poor cash flow, liquidity
- Inadequate profit margins / Regular and significant profit fade
- Excessive debt and overhead
- Inadequate Insurance
- Inadequate accounting / Management systems
- Poor estimating; Purchasing procedures
- Inadequate project supervision, administration

Origin of Claims

- Project Issues
 - Significant Change in Type of Work
 - Geography
 - Project Size
 - Onerous contract; bond forms
 - Unfamiliar Customer
 - Project financing
 - Exposure for damages
 - Subcontractor failure



Bonded Obligations

Contract Surety

- Performance Bond Project Owner (Obligee) makes demand for Principal's breach of the contract
- Payment Bond Principal's vendors make demand for amounts owed by Principal for labor or materials provided to bonded project

Commercial Surety

 Thousands of bond forms guaranteeing Principal's compliance with licenses or financial responsibilities

The Claim Process

Investigation

- Documentation
- Books and records review
- Engineering and Accounting consultants
- Site inspection
- Determination of Liability
 - Statutory defenses
 - Contractual defenses
 - Indemnity rights to demand Principal/Indemnitors resolve

The Claim Process

- Traditional Surety Mitigation Options
 - Finance the Principal
 - Takeover
 - Tender
 - Buy back the bond
 - Deny

Loss Drivers

- Diminishing contract balances, overpayment
- Exposure for damages due to delay
 - Revenue generating projects
 - Time consuming investigative process
- Re-let premium charged to sureties
- Costs to correct defective work
- Obligee elects to cure defaults
- Consulting and attorneys fees to implement and monitor completion and pursue recovery
- Litigation expenses

Mitigation Tools

- Indemnity Agreements
 - Assignment rights to all assets of the bonded project
 - Security Interests
 - Right to demand collateral
 - Access to books and records
 - Attorney in Fact appointments
 - Trust Fund provisions
- Common Law Indemnity & Subrogation rights
- Funds Control

Impediments to Recovery

- If the GIA and equitable rights are so powerful, why isn't surety a zero loss business?
 - Cash Flow; Liquidity
 - Indemnitors "all in" or shielding assets
 - Competition with Banks
 - Bankruptcy
 - Homestead Exclusions
 - Insufficient backlog of future work
 - Loss of Surety Credit

Thank you!

