



## **Punitive Damages: Anything But Puny**

Owning property today can be hazardous to your financial health, particularly if anyone—resident, visitor, salesperson, contractor, or guest—is injured on your property. All businesses, including community associations, are vulnerable to society's penchant for suing.

Punitive damages, which are awarded to punish the defendant for intentional or malicious misconduct or to deter similar future misconduct, have grown in frequency and size in recent years. They are routinely asked for in civil lawsuits. Although most states allow awards, many umbrella liability insurance policies do not cover punitive damages.

Community associations owe it to their members to obtain appropriate umbrella liability insurance coverage that includes coverage for punitive damages for their specific situations.

Need more information? Call Steve Dickerson at Morgan & Cheves, Inc. **(703-739-2346)**.

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