

Lee Covington

President & CEO, *The Surety & Fidelity Association of America*

Lee Covington is the President and CEO of The Surety & Fidelity Association of America, which represents 425 insurance companies that collectively write 98 percent of the surety and fidelity premium in the U.S. Previously, Mr. Covington was the Senior Vice President of Governmental Affairs and General Counsel for the Insured Retirement Institute, where he led the association's legislative, regulatory and legal strategy at both the state and federal levels, including all efforts before the President's administration, Congress, SEC, FINRA, state legislatures, and state insurance and securities departments. Prior to joining IRI, Covington served as a co-leader for the National Insurance Practice at an AmLaw 100 global law firm, now known as Squire Patton Boggs in Washington, DC. His focus on insurance law began in 1993 in Little Rock, Arkansas, where he worked in the national insurance legal practice at the Mitchell Williams Law Firm, served as Insurance and Commerce Legislative Aide to Governor Mike Huckabee, and rose to become the Deputy Commissioner of the Arkansas Insurance Department. Mr. Covington was then tapped by Ohio Governor Bob Taft to become the Director of the Ohio Department of Insurance from 1999-2002, where he served on the Executive Committee of the National Association of Insurance Commissioners and numerous other committees.