

**American States  
Insurance**

A SAFECO Company

AMERICAN STATES INSURANCE COMPANY  
INDIANAPOLIS, INDIANA 46204-1275

Inst # 2001-02980

**PUBLIC OFFICIAL BOND**

Bond Number:

01/29/2001-02980  
08:34 AM CERTIFIED  
SHELBY COUNTY JUDGE OF PROBATE  
6010917 002 HMB .00KNOW ALL MEN BY THESE PRESENTS, That we, Joel Bearden

of

Helena

in the State of

Alabama

as Principal, and AMERICAN STATES INSURANCE COMPANY, a corporation duly

organized and existing under and by virtue of the Laws of the State of Indiana, and authorized to become surety on

bonds in the State of Alabama, as Surety, are held and firmly bound untoShelby Countyin the State of Alabama, in the full and just sum of Three Thousand and no/100-----(\$ 3,000.00 ) Dollars

lawful money of the United States, for payment of which well and truly to be made, we bind ourselves, our heirs, executors, administrators, successors and assigns, jointly and severally, firmly by these presents.

SIGNED AND SEALED this 14th day of November A.D. 2000WHEREAS, the said Joel Beardenhas been duly elected or appointed to the office of County Commissioner for a termbeginning on the 14th day of November, 2000, andending on the 14th day of November, 2004.

NOW, THEREFORE, THE CONDITION of THE ABOVE OBLIGATION IS SUCH, that if the above principal shall, during the aforesaid term, faithfully and truly perform all the duties of said office as required by law, then this obligation to be void, otherwise to be and remain in full force and virtue.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the said Principal has hereunto set his hand and the said AMERICAN STATES INSURANCE COMPANY has caused these presents to be signed by its Attorney-in-Fact, the day and year first above written.

Rebecca Brasher  
WITNESSJoel E. Bearden  
PRINCIPAL

AMERICAN STATES INSURANCE COMPANY

Rebecca Brasher  
ATTORNEY-IN-FACTSTATE OF Alabama  
COUNTY OF Shelby }

SS.:

Before me, this 14th day of December  
personally appeared the said Joel Beardenand known to me to be the individual described in and who executed the foregoing bond, and he acknowledged to me that he executed the same.

**American States Insurance Company**  
INDIANAPOLIS, INDIANA

KNOW ALL MEN BY THESE PRESENTS, that American States Insurance Company, a Corporation duly organized and existing under the laws of the State of Indiana, and having its principal office in the City of Indianapolis, Indiana, hath made, constituted and appointed, and does by these presents make, constitute and appoint ----- GEORGE T. BENTLEY, REBECCA BRASHER OR PEGGY WOOD -----

of Columbiana and State of Alabama  
its true and lawful Attorney(s)-in-Fact, with full power and authority hereby conferred in its name, place and stead, to execute, acknowledge and deliver any and all bonds, recognizances, contracts of indemnity and other conditional or obligatory undertakings, provided, however,  
that the penal sum of any one such instrument executed hereunder shall not exceed  
THREE HUNDRED THOUSAND AND NO/100 (\$300,000.00) DOLLARS -----  
and to bind the Corporation thereby as fully and to the same extent as if personally executed by it.

and to bind the Corporation thereby as fully and to the same extent as if such bonds were signed by the President, sealed with the common seal of the Corporation and duly attested by its Secretary, hereby ratifying and confirming all that the said Attorney(s)-in-Fact may do in the premises. This Power of Attorney is executed and may be revoked pursuant to and by authority granted by Section 7.07 of the By-Laws of the American States Insurance Company, which reads as follows:

"The Chairman, the President or any Vice-President (including any Executive Vice-President, Senior Vice-President, Second Vice-President or Assistant Vice-President) shall have power, by and with the concurrence with any other officer of the Corporation, to appoint Attorneys-in-fact as the business of the Corporation may require and to authorize any such person to execute, on behalf of the Corporation, any bonds, recognizances, stipulations and undertakings, whether by way of surety or otherwise"

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, American States Insurance Company has caused these presents to be signed by its Second Vice-President, attested by its Assistant Vice-President and its corporate seal to be hereto affixed this 27th day of May A.D. 19 98.

AMERICAN STATES INSURANCE COMPANY

**ATTEST:**

**Assistant Vice-President**

By

**Second Vice-President**

STATE OF INDIANA }  
COUNTY OF MARION } SS

01/29/2001-02980  
08:34 AM CERTIFIED  
SHELBY COUNTY JUDGE OF PROBATE  
002 MMB .00

On this 27th day of May, A.D., 1998, before me personally came

Joseph F. Heim

being by me duly sworn, acknowledged the execution of the above instrument and did depose and say; that he is a Second Vice-President of American States Insurance Company; that he knows the seal of said Corporation; that the seal affixed to the said instrument is such corporate seal; that it was so affixed by authority of the Board of Directors of said Corporation; and that he signed his name thereto under like authority. And said Joseph F. Heim further said that he is acquainted with Mark A. Lawrence and knows him to be the Assistant Vice-President of said Corporation; and that he executed the above instrument.

**CAREENA PONSLER, NOTARY PUBLIC  
MARION COUNTY, STATE OF INDIANA  
MY COMMISSION EXPIRES: 10/2/2000**

**Notary Public**

STATE OF INDIANA }  
COUNTY OF MARION } SS

I, Mark A. Lawrence, the Assistant Vice-President of AMERICAN STATES INSURANCE COMPANY, do hereby certify that the above and foregoing is a true and correct copy of a Power of Attorney, executed by said AMERICAN STATES INSURANCE COMPANY, which is still in force and effect.

This Certificate may be signed and sealed by facsimile under and by the authority of Section 8.03 of the By-Laws of AMERICAN STATES INSURANCE COMPANY which reads as follows:

"All policies and other instruments of insurance issued by the Corporation shall be signed on behalf of the Corporation by the Chairman, the president or any vice-president (including any Executive Vice-President, Senior Vice-President, Vice-President, Second Vice-President, or Assistant Vice-President) and the secretary, assistant secretary, or other officer, whose signatures, if the instrument is duly countersigned by an authorized representative of the Corporation, may be facsimiles. Such signatures and facsimiles thereof shall be authorized and binding upon the Corporation notwithstanding the fact that any such officer shall have ceased to be such officer at the time such policy or other instrument of insurance shall have been actually issued by the Corporation."

In witness whereof, I have hereunto set my hand and affixed the seal of said Corporation, this 14th day of November, A.D., ~~19~~2000

Assistant Vice-President

THIS POWER OF ATTORNEY MUST CONTAIN A VALIDATING STATEMENT PRINTED IN THE MARGIN HEREOF IN RED INK, WITH A RED DIAGONAL IMPRINT — AMERICAN STATES INSURANCE — PRESENT IN ITS ENTIRETY. IF YOU HAVE ANY QUESTIONS REGARDING THE VALIDITY OF THIS POWER OF ATTORNEY, CALL 317-262-6262 OR WRITE US AT P.O. BOX 1636, INDIANAPOLIS, IN 46206-1636.

## WARNING

THIS IS NOT A VALID POWER OF ATTORNEY IF THIS STATEMENT DOES NOT APPEAR IN RED INK AND IF THE RED DIAGONAL IMPRINT — AMERICAN STATES INSURANCE — IS NOT PRESENT IN ITS ENTIRETY.