

HCC INSURANCE HOLDINGS INC/DE/
Form DEFA14A
May 06, 2009

**UNITED STATES
SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION
Washington, D.C. 20549
SCHEDULE 14A**

Proxy Statement Pursuant to Section 14(a) of the Securities
Exchange Act of 1934 (Amendment No.)

Filed by the Registrant

Filed by a Party other than the Registrant

Check the appropriate box:

- Preliminary Proxy Statement
- Confidential, for Use of the Commission Only (as permitted by Rule 14a-6(e)(2))**
- Definitive Proxy Statement
- Definitive Additional Materials
- Soliciting Material Pursuant to §240.14a-12

HCC Insurance Holdings, Inc.

(Name of Registrant as Specified In Its Charter)

(Name of Person(s) Filing Proxy Statement, if other than the Registrant)

Payment of Filing Fee (Check the appropriate box):

- No fee required.
- Fee computed on table below per Exchange Act Rules 14a-6(i)(1) and 0-11.
 - (1) Title of each class of securities to which transaction applies:

(2) Aggregate number of securities to which transaction applies:

(3) Per unit price or other underlying value of transaction computed pursuant to Exchange Act Rule 0-11 (set forth the amount on which the filing fee is calculated and state how it was determined):

(4) Proposed maximum aggregate value of transaction:

(5) Total fee paid:

- o Fee paid previously with preliminary materials.
- o Check box if any part of the fee is offset as provided by Exchange Act Rule 0-11(a)(2) and identify the filing for which the offsetting fee was paid previously. Identify the previous filing by registration statement number, or the Form or Schedule and the date of its filing.

(1) Amount Previously Paid:

(2) Form, Schedule or Registration Statement No.:

(3) Filing Party:

(4) Date Filed:

**UNITED STATES
SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION
Washington, D.C. 20549**

**FORM 8-K
CURRENT REPORT PURSUANT
TO SECTION 13 OR 15 (d) OF THE
SECURITIES EXCHANGE ACT OF 1934
Date of report (Date of earliest event reported): May 5, 2009
HCC INSURANCE HOLDINGS, INC.
(Exact name of registrant as specified in its charter)**

**Delaware
(State or other jurisdiction of
incorporation)**

**001-13790
(Commission File Number)**

**76-0336636
(I.R.S. Employer
Identification No.)**

**13403 Northwest Freeway
Houston, Texas 77040
(Address of principal executive offices, including zip code)
(713) 690-7300**

(Registrant's telephone number, including area code)

Check the appropriate box below if the Form 8-K is intended to simultaneously satisfy the filing obligation of the registrant under any of the following provisions:

- o Written communications pursuant to Rule 425 under the Securities Act (17 CFR 230.425)**
 - o Soliciting material pursuant to Rule 14a-12 under the Exchange Act (17 CFR 240.14a-12)**
 - o Pre-commencement communications pursuant to Rule 14d-2(b) under the Exchange Act (17 CFR 240.14d-2(b))**
 - o Pre-commencement communications pursuant to Rule 13e-4(c) under the Exchange Act (17 CFR 240.13e-4(c))**
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Item 5.02. Departure of Directors or Certain Officers; Election of Directors; Appointment of Certain Officers; Compensatory Arrangement of Certain Officers.

On May 5, 2009, Frank J. Bramanti, Chief Executive Officer (*CEO*) of HCC Insurance Holdings, Inc. (the *Company*, or *HCC*), informed the Company of his decision to retire and tendered his resignation as CEO effective at 5:00 P.M. Central Time on May 5, 2009. In connection with his resignation as CEO, Mr. Bramanti entered into a Separation Agreement with the Company, effective May 5, 2009 (the *Separation Agreement*), pursuant to which he is to receive a cash payment in the amount of \$1,000,000 and a final monthly contribution of deferred compensation on May 31, 2009. In addition, subject to approval of our Compensation Committee at its next regularly scheduled meeting, options held by Mr. Bramanti that are vested on the effective date of his resignation shall remain exercisable for their term. A copy of the Separation Agreement is attached as Exhibit 10.1 and is incorporated by reference herein.

The Company has appointed John N. Molbeck, Jr. to succeed Mr. Bramanti as CEO. Mr. Molbeck, who is 62 years old, has served as President and Chief Operating Officer (*COO*) of HCC since 2006 (a position he previously held from 1997 to 2002). From 2003 to 2005, he was Chief Executive Officer for Jardine Lloyd Thompson, a North American subsidiary of a U.K.-listed insurance broking concern, from which he retired in 2005. He has been a member of the Company's Board since 2005.

Under the terms of a revised Employment Agreement between Mr. Molbeck and the Company, effective May 5, 2009 (the *Employment Agreement*), Mr. Molbeck assumed the position of CEO on May 5, 2009. He will continue to serve as President and as a member of the Board.

Mr. Molbeck will receive an annual base salary of \$1,950,000, including deferred compensation, and is eligible to receive an annual cash and/or stock bonus payment determined in accordance with the Company's 2008 Flexible Incentive Plan, if Mr. Molbeck is a participant in such plan, or if Mr. Molbeck is not a participant, as determined by the Board. The term of Mr. Molbeck's Employment Agreement expires on May 31, 2013. A copy of the Employment Agreement is attached as Exhibit 10.2 and is incorporated by reference herein.

Item 7.01. Regulation FD Disclosure.

The Company issued a press release on May 6, 2009, announcing the resignations of Mr. Bramanti as CEO and announcing the appointment of Mr. Molbeck as President and CEO. A copy of the press release is furnished as Exhibit 99.1 to this Current Report on Form 8-K.

Item 9.01. Financial Statements and Exhibits.

(d) *Exhibits.* The following exhibits are filed or furnished, as the case may be, with this Current Report on Form 8-K:

Exhibit No.	Description
10.1	Separation Agreement between Frank J. Bramanti and HCC Insurance Holdings, Inc., effective May 5, 2009.
10.2	Employment agreement between John N. Molbeck, Jr. and HCC Insurance Holdings, Inc., effective May 5, 2009.
99.1	Press Release dated May 6, 2009.

The information contained in Exhibit 99.1 attached hereto shall not be deemed filed for purposes of Section 18 of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, and shall not be deemed incorporated by reference in any filing with the Securities and Exchange Commission under the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 or the Securities Act of 1933, whether made before or after the date hereof and irrespective of any general incorporation language in any filings.

Portions of this report may constitute forward-looking statements as defined by federal law. Although the Company believes any such statements are based on reasonable assumptions, there is no assurance that actual outcomes will not be materially different. Any such statements are made in reliance on the safe harbor protections provided under the Private Securities Litigation Reform Act of 1995. Additional information about issues that could lead to material changes in the Company's performance is contained in the Company's filings with the Securities and Exchange Commission.

SIGNATURE

Pursuant to the requirements of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, the registrant has duly caused this report to be signed on its behalf by the undersigned hereunto duly authorized.

HCC Insurance Holdings, Inc.

By: /s/ Randy D. Rinicella
Randy D. Rinicella
Senior Vice President & General
Counsel

DATED: May 6, 2009

EXHIBIT INDEX

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Exhibit 10.1

SEPARATION AGREEMENT

1. This Separation Agreement (**Agreement**), dated as of May 5, 2009, is by and between Frank J. Bramanti (**Executive**) and HCC Insurance Holdings, Inc., a Delaware corporation (**Company**).
 2. The Company currently employs Executive as its Chief Executive Officer (**CEO**) pursuant to an Amended and Restated Employment Agreement entered into on December 19, 2008, but effective as of January 1, 2007 (the **Employment Agreement**). Executive also serves as a director of the Company and certain of the Company's wholly owned subsidiaries. All references in this Agreement to the Company shall be deemed to include, unless the context otherwise requires, all of the subsidiaries of the Company. Executive hereby resigns from his position as CEO effective as of May 5, 2009 and resigns from all of his other positions as an officer of the Company and each of its subsidiaries effective as of May 18, 2009 (the **Effective Date**). Executive hereby also resigns as a director of each of the Company's subsidiaries as of the Effective Date, but shall remain a director of the Company until such time as his term as a director ends and he is not re-elected. Beginning on the Effective Date and for so long as he continues to serve as a Director, Executive shall be compensated as an outside director.
 3. The parties agree that Executive has received all sums owing to him by the Company pursuant to the Employment Agreement for salary and benefits accruing through the Effective Date except for: (a) payment for accrued but unused vacation; (b) expenses for which he is entitled to reimbursement; and (c) salary payments arising after April 30, 2009. Executive hereby waives payment for accrued but unused vacation to which he may be entitled. In consideration for the terms of this Agreement, within five days of the Effective Date, the Company shall pay Executive an amount in cash equal to \$1,000,000 plus salary payments accrued from the date hereof through the Effective Date, less in each case normal tax and other withholdings, payable in accordance with the Company's usual payment procedures. Executive shall submit requests for reimbursement of unpaid expenses incurred prior to the Effective Date within 60 days of the Effective Date, for which the Company shall reimburse him in accordance with its usual policy with regard to reimbursement of employees.
 4. During the month of May, 2009, the Company shall make one final contribution to Executive's Participant's Account as provided in the HCC Insurance Holdings, Inc. NonQualified Deferred Compensation Plan for Frank J. Bramanti (the **Deferred Compensation Plan**). The Effective Date will constitute Participant's Separation From Service under the Deferred Compensation Plan and Executive's rights under the Deferred Compensation Plan shall thereafter be as provided therein.
 5. Following the Effective Date, all of Executive's and the Company's obligations under the Employment Agreement that are performable prior to the Effective Date shall be terminated and of no further force and effect. In accordance with the terms of the Employment Agreement, the following agreements shall survive the termination of the Employment Agreement:
 - In accordance with Section 3(g) of the Employment Agreement, within thirty (30) days of the Effective Date, the Company shall assign to Executive the \$5,000,000 in aggregate face amount of life insurance policies that the Company has
-

been keeping in effect for Executive. Following the Effective Date, Executive shall be responsible for paying all premiums on such life insurance policies.

In accordance with Section 3(e)(3) of the Employment Agreement, following the Effective Date, Executive and his qualified beneficiaries shall be entitled to continue to be covered by medical insurance as currently provided under the Company's group program, as such group program may be changed from time to time in the future, or, if not permitted under the terms of the group program, then the Company shall provide Executive and his qualified beneficiaries with a medical insurance policy providing substantially similar benefits as the group program for the period ending on the later of: (i) the date of Executive's death; (ii) if Executive is married on the date of his death, the date of the death of Executive's spouse; or (iii) as to each minor dependent of Executive, the later of the date that each such dependent reaches the age of twenty-five or completes college (as defined in the Company's group program). Executive and his qualified beneficiaries shall be entitled to receive the medical benefits defined herein at no cost and without any concession to Executive and his qualified beneficiaries. This paragraph reaffirms and extends the Company's obligations as set out in Section 3(e)(3) of the Employment Agreement and is not intended to limit or reduce the benefits therein conferred on Executive or his qualified beneficiaries.

In accordance with Section 5(h) of the Employment Agreement, Executive hereby reaffirms Executive's obligations under the following sections of the Employment Agreement, which Executive and the Company agree shall continue to apply to Executive following the Effective Date as if recited herein in full: Sections 5(c) Non-Competition After Termination, 5(d) Non-Solicitation of Customers, 5(e) Non-Solicitation of Employees, 5(f) Confidential Information, 5(g) Return of Documents, Equipment, Etc., 5(k) Breach, 5(m) Extension of Post-Employment Restrictions, and 5(n) Enforceability.

6. Executive currently holds the following nonqualified stock options (the **Outstanding Options**):

No. of Shares	Vesting Date	Exercise Price	Expiration Date
18,750	Already Vested	\$21.37	12/20/2009
12,500	Already Vested	\$30.85	1/5/2011
200,000	Already Vested	\$31.11	3/2/2012
100,000	3/2/2010	\$31.11	3/2/2012
100,000	3/2/2011	\$31.11	3/2/2012
100,000	3/2/2011	\$31.11	3/2/2012
50,000	3/2/2011	\$31.11	3/2/2012

Outstanding Options vested as of the Effective Date shall continue to be exercisable until the expiration date set forth above. Options not vested as of the Effective Date shall be forfeited as of the Effective Date. The provisions of this Section 6 shall be subject to the approval of the Compensation Committee of the Board of Directors, at its next regularly scheduled meeting on May 20, 2009.

7. On or before the Effective Date, Executive shall be entitled to use the Company's aircraft for one round-trip personal flight within the continental United States. Personal use of the Company's aircraft shall be taxable to Executive based on the then-current Internal Revenue Service rules for the taxation of such benefit.

8. No modification to any provisions contained in this Agreement shall be binding upon any party unless made in writing and signed by both parties.

9. If any provision of this Agreement is held to be unenforceable for any reason, the remaining parts of the Agreement shall remain in full force and effect.

10. This Agreement shall be construed in accordance with Texas law.

11. Except as expressly set forth in this Agreement, the Option Agreements and the Deferred Compensation Plan, this Agreement constitutes a single, integrated written contract expressing the entire agreement of the parties to this Agreement. Any other agreements, discussions, promises, and representations have been and are integrated into and superseded by this Agreement, the Option Agreements and the Deferred Compensation Plan.

12. With respect to Executive, this Agreement shall also bind and inure to the benefit of his respective heirs and assigns. With respect to the Company, this Agreement shall also bind and inure to the benefit of any affiliated entities, successor-in-interests, or assigns.

13. Any notices required to be given shall be given as set forth in Section 10 of the Employment Agreement

14. This Agreement may be executed in separate counterparts each of which shall be an original and all of which taken together shall constitute one and the same agreement.

[Signature page follows.]

HCC INSURANCE HOLDINGS, INC.

By: /s/ John N. Molbeck, Jr.
John N. Molbeck, Jr., President

/s/ Frank J. Bramanti
Frank J. Bramanti

Exhibit 10.2

EMPLOYMENT AGREEMENT

This EMPLOYMENT AGREEMENT (the Agreement) is entered into on May 5, 2009 (the Effective Date), between HCC INSURANCE HOLDINGS, INC. (HCC or Company) JOHN N. MOLBECK, JR. (Executive), sometimes collectively referred to herein as the Parties.

RECITALS:

WHEREAS, Executive is to be employed as President and Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of HCC;

WHEREAS, it is the desire of the Board of Directors of HCC (the Board) to (i) directly engage Executive as an officer of HCC; and (ii) directly engage, if elected, the services of Executive as a director of HCC or its subsidiaries or affiliates; and

WHEREAS, Executive is desirous of committing himself to serve HCC on the terms herein provided;

WHEREAS, Executive and the Company have previously entered into an Employment Agreement dated on August 10, 2007, but effective as of March 1, 2007 (the Original Employment Agreement); and

WHEREAS, Executive and the Company desire to terminate the Original Employment Agreement and enter into this Agreement.

NOW, THEREFORE, in consideration of the foregoing and of the respective covenants and agreements set forth below, the Parties agree as follows:

1. Term. The Company hereby agrees to employ Executive as its President and Chief Executive Officer and Executive hereby agrees to accept such employment, on the terms and conditions set forth herein, for the period (the Term) commencing on the Effective Date and expiring at the earlier to occur of (a) 11:59 p.m. on May 31, 2013 (the Expiration Date) and (b) the Termination Date (as hereinafter defined).

2. Duties.

(a) **Duties as Employee of the Company.** Executive shall, subject to the supervision of the Board of Directors, have general management and control of HCC in the ordinary course of its business with all such powers with respect to such management and control as may be reasonably incident to such responsibilities. During normal business hours, Executive shall devote substantially all of his time and attention to diligently attending to the business of the Company. During the Term, Executive shall not directly or indirectly render any services of a business, commercial, or professional nature to any other person, firm, corporation, or organization, whether for compensation or otherwise, without the prior consent of the Board of Directors of HCC. However, Executive shall have the right to engage in such activities as may be appropriate in order to manage his personal investments and in educational, charitable and philanthropic activities, so long as such activities do not interfere or conflict with the performance of his duties to the Company hereunder. The conduct of such activity shall not be deemed to materially interfere or conflict with Executive's performance of his duties until Executive has been notified in writing thereof and given a reasonable period in which to cure same.

(b) **Other Duties.**

(1) If elected, Executive agrees to serve in one or more executive offices of any of HCC's subsidiaries including managerial committees or directorships, provided Executive is indemnified for serving in any and all such capacities in a manner acceptable to the Company and Executive. Executive agrees that while a full time employee he shall not be entitled to receive any compensation, if elected, for serving as a director of HCC, or in any capacities of HCC's subsidiaries other than the compensation to be paid to Executive by the Company pursuant to this Agreement. If Executive is not a full time employee of the Company or its subsidiary, he shall be compensated as an outside director, if elected.

(2) Executive acknowledges and agrees that he has read and considered the written business policies and procedures of HCC as posted on HCC's intranet and that he will abide by such policies and procedures throughout the term of his employment with the Company. Executive further agrees that he will familiarize himself with any amendments to the policies and procedures and that he will abide by such policies and procedures as they may change from time to time.

(c) **Work Situs.** The Executive shall be entitled to work from an off-site location as his office location for no more than two (2) months during each calendar year provided that Executive remains available by telephone and email while working off-site and further provided that Executive remains available while at his off-site office location to return to Houston or elsewhere, upon reasonable notice, as requested by the Chairman of the Board. This period shall not be considered vacation time for purposes of this Agreement.

3. Compensation and Related Matters.

(a) **Base Salary.** During the Term Executive shall receive a base salary (the Base Salary) paid by the Company at the annual rate of \$1,000,000.00 payable not less frequently than in substantially equal monthly installments (or such other, more frequent times as executives of HCC normally are paid).

(b) **Deferred Compensation.** During the Term Executive shall receive deferred compensation (the Deferred Compensation) at the annual rate of \$950,000 or such greater amount as is approved by the Compensation Committee of the Board (the Compensation Committee) in its discretion. Deferred Compensation under this Agreement shall be accrued under one or more of the Company's deferred compensation plans as determined from time to time by the Compensation Committee. Deferred Compensation accruals for a year shall be credited monthly on a ratable basis throughout the year, unless more frequent crediting is required by the applicable deferred compensation plan. Notwithstanding anything herein to the contrary, such accruals of Deferred Compensation shall be subject to and shall be governed by the terms of the plan under which accrued (including, without limitation, plan terms regarding the crediting of income and the timing of distributions).

(c) **Bonus Payments.** During the Term, Executive shall be eligible to receive, in addition to the Base Salary, an annual cash bonus payment in amounts to be determined as follows:

(1) If Executive is a participant under the 2008 Flexible Incentive Plan (the Incentive Plan) for a calendar year during the Term, then Executive's bonus payment, if any, for such year shall be determined and paid in accordance with the terms of the Incentive Plan.

(2) If Executive is not a participant in the Incentive Plan for a calendar year during the Term, then Executive's bonus payment, if any, for such year shall be determined in the sole discretion of the Compensation Committee and payable in a lump sum within 30 days after the Compensation

Committee's determination of the amount of said cash bonus. The Board or Compensation Committee may unilaterally reduce or eliminate any such annual bonus payment, if any, up until the time the bonus is actually paid (and notwithstanding any earlier, tentative determination of the bonus amount). There shall be no minimum bonus payable to Executive under this subsection (2), and, except as provided in Sections 4(b)(3), 4(c)(7), and 4(d)(7), no bonus shall be payable to Executive pursuant to this subsection (2) for a year if Executive's Termination Date occurs at any time during such year.

(d) **Expenses.** During the Term of this Agreement, Executive shall be entitled to receive prompt reimbursement for all reasonable business expenses incurred by him (in accordance with the policies and procedures established by the Board for the Company's senior executive officers) in performing services hereunder, provided that Executive properly accounts therefor in accordance with Company policy.

(e) **Medical and Other Benefits.**

(1) **Other Benefits.** From time to time the Company may make available other compensation and employee benefit plans and arrangements. During the Term Executive shall be eligible to participate in such other compensation and employee benefit plans and arrangements, except the Company's paid time off policy, on the same basis as similarly situated senior executive officers and key management employees of the Company, subject to and on a basis consistent with the terms, conditions, and overall administration of such plans and arrangements, as amended from time to time; *provided, however*, that medical coverage under the Company's group health plan shall be provided at no cost to Executive. Nothing in this Agreement shall be deemed to confer upon Executive or any other person (including any beneficiary or dependent of Executive) any rights under or with respect to any such plan or arrangement or to amend any such plan or arrangement, and Executive and each other person (including any beneficiary) shall be entitled to look only to the express terms of any such plan or arrangement for his or her rights thereunder. Nothing paid to Executive under any such plan or arrangement presently in effect or made available in the future shall be deemed to be in lieu of the Base Salary payable to Executive pursuant to Section 3(a).

(2) **Continuation of Health Coverage after Death.**

(i) If Executive's employment ceases during the Term or after the Expiration Date due to death, each qualified beneficiary (as defined by the Consolidated Omnibus Budget Reconciliation Act of 1985, as amended (COBRA)) of Executive shall be eligible to continue coverage under the Company's group health plans in which the qualified beneficiary participated on the Termination Date (including any successor health plans, the Company Health Plans) until the expiration of the maximum required period for continuation coverage under COBRA, determined as if such qualified beneficiary elected COBRA continuation coverage and paid the required premium for such continuation coverage. The Company shall pay the full required premium for such continuation coverage, which shall satisfy any obligation to provide continuation coverage under COBRA for such period.

(ii) After the continuation coverage under subsection (i) above ends, the Company shall reimburse Executive's qualified beneficiaries who would have been eligible for coverage under the Company Health Plans at such time had Executive continued to be an active employee of the Company for the cost of the premium for (A) an individual health insurance policy or policies which provide benefits during the Extended Coverage Period (as hereinafter defined) which are comparable in the aggregate to the benefits provided under the Company Health Plans (exclusive of the Company's health flexible spending account plan) or (B) health coverage under any other employer health plan which is available to the qualified beneficiaries and which provides benefits during the Extended Coverage Period which are comparable in the aggregate to the benefits provided under the Company Health Plans

(exclusive of the Company's health flexible spending account plan); provided, however, that the Company shall not reimburse the cost of such health coverage for a qualified beneficiary (including Executive's spouse) to the extent that coverage extends beyond the Extended Coverage Period for such qualified beneficiary. Such reimbursement shall be subject to the requirements of Section 3(e)(4).

(3) Continuation of Health Coverage after Other Termination Events.

(i) Executive ceases to be an employee of the Company during the term or after the Expiration Date for any reason other than death (including, without limitation, due to a termination for Cause), Executive and each of his qualified beneficiaries shall be eligible to continue coverage under the Company Health Plans in which they participate on the Termination Date until the expiration of the maximum required period for continuation coverage under COBRA, determined as if Executive and each such qualified beneficiary elected COBRA continuation coverage and paid the required premium for such continuation coverage. The Company shall pay the full required premium for such continuation coverage, which shall satisfy any obligation to provide continuation coverage under COBRA for such period.

(ii) After the continuation coverage under subsection (i) above ends, the Company shall reimburse Executive for the cost of the premium for (A) an individual health insurance policy or policies which provide benefits to Executive and his qualified beneficiaries who would have been eligible for coverage under the Company Health Plans at such time had Executive continued to be an active employee of the Company during the Extended Coverage Period (as hereinafter defined), which benefits are comparable in the aggregate to the benefits provided under the Company Health Plans (exclusive of the Company's health flexible spending account plan and determined after applying the Company Health Plan provisions regarding coordination of benefits if other health coverage (including Medicare) is available to Executive) or (B) health coverage under any other employer health plan which is available to Executive and such qualified beneficiaries and which provides benefits during the Extended Coverage Period which are comparable in the aggregate to the benefits provided under the Company Health Plans (exclusive of the Company's health flexible spending account plan); provided, however, that the Company shall not reimburse the cost of such health coverage for Executive or for a qualified beneficiary (including Executive's spouse) to the extent such coverage extends beyond the Extended Coverage Period for Executive or for such qualified beneficiary. Such reimbursement shall be subject to the requirements of Section 3(e)(4).

(4) The amount of expenses eligible for reimbursement under the provisions of Sections 3(e)(2) and 3(e)(3) which refer to this Section 3(e)(4) during the taxable year of the recipient of such reimbursements shall not affect the expenses eligible for reimbursement in any other taxable year. The recipient must submit such eligible expenses to the Company within a reasonable period of time after the expenses are incurred, and payment for any such expenses must occur on or before the last day of the recipient's taxable year following the taxable year in which the expense was incurred (expenses submitted after this payment deadline shall not be eligible for reimbursement). The right to reimbursement of such expenses is not subject to liquidation or exchange for any other benefit.

(5) The Extended Coverage Period for Executive or a qualified beneficiary (including Executive's spouse) is the period (i) beginning on the date on which deemed COBRA continuation coverage ends and (ii) ending on the earlier to occur of (A) in the case of Executive, the date Executive dies and, in the case of Executive's spouse, the date Executive's spouse dies and (B) the date on which Executive's qualified beneficiary (other than Executive's spouse) would have ceased to be eligible for coverage under the terms of the Company Health Plans if Executive had continued to be an active employee of the Company.

(f) **Vacations.** Executive shall be entitled to thirty (30) paid vacation days per year during the Term, or such additional number as may be determined by the Board from time to time, but in no event shall any unused vacation days carry over from year-to-year. For purposes of this Section, weekends shall not count as vacation days, and Executive shall also be entitled to all paid holidays given by the Company to its senior executive officers.

(g) **Life Insurance.** The Company shall provide to Executive a term life insurance policy or policies in an aggregate face amount of \$1,000,000.00 and shall pay the premiums therefor during the Term. Upon Executive's cessation as an employee of the Company during or after the Term for any reason other than death, the Company shall assign such policy or policies to Executive. The life insurance provided for in this Section 3(g) shall be in addition to the group life insurance program covering Executive and substantially all of the employees of the Company during the Term.

(h) **Proration.** The Base Salary, bonus, and vacation payable to Executive hereunder in respect of any calendar year during which Executive is employed by the Company for less than the entire year, unless otherwise provided in the applicable arrangement, shall be prorated in accordance with the number of days in such calendar year during which he is so employed. The amounts payable to Executive pursuant to subsection (i) below in respect of any month during which Executive is employed by the Company for less than the entire month shall be prorated in accordance with the number of days in such month during which he is so employed.

(i) **Air Travel.** During the Term Executive shall be entitled to domestic and international first class air travel, where available, when traveling on Company business, and Executive agrees to use any upgrade programs or opportunities for such travel whenever feasible. During the Term Executive shall have use of the Company's aircraft for business travel. During the Term, Executive shall, upon approval of the Chairman of the Board of HCC, have use of the Company's aircraft for personal travel in North America provided that such travel shall be limited to a maximum of six (6) trips in any year. Personal use of the Company's aircraft shall be taxable to Executive based on the then-current Internal Revenue Service rules for the taxation of such benefit.

(j) **Other Perquisites.** In addition to the benefits, compensation, bonuses, and other payments provided herein, Executive shall be entitled to receive any additional payments or perquisites as are determined at the sole discretion of the Compensation Committee.

(k) **Stock Options.** Stock options, if any, issued to Executive during the Term shall be at the discretion of the Company's Compensation Committee and shall be issued under a stock option agreement containing terms with respect to vesting and exercise upon the occurrence of certain termination events that are substantially the same as those set forth on *Exhibit 3(l)* hereto, subject to any then required approval by the Compensation Committee of the Board.

4. Termination.

(a) **Definitions.**

(1) **Cause** shall mean any of the following:

(i) Material dishonesty by Executive which is not the result of an inadvertent or innocent mistake of Executive with respect to the Company or any of its subsidiaries;

(ii) Willful misfeasance or nonfeasance of duty by Executive;

(iii) Material violation by Executive of any material term of this Agreement; or

(iv) Conviction of Executive of any felony, any crime involving moral turpitude, or any crime (other than a vehicular offense not involving DUI or personal injury) which in some material fashion results in the injury of the Company's and any of its subsidiaries' reputation, business, or business relationships.

Executive may not be terminated for Cause unless and until there has been delivered to Executive written notice from the Board supplying the particulars of Executive's acts or omissions that the Board believes constitute Cause, a reasonable period of time (not less than 30 days) has been given to Executive after such notice to either cure the same or to meet with the Board, with his attorney if so desired by Executive, and following which the Board reaffirms that Executive has been terminated for Cause as of the date set forth in the final notice to Executive.

(2) A **Change of Control** shall be deemed to have occurred if:

(i) Any person or group (within the meaning of Sections 13(d) and 14(d)(2) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934) other than a trustee or other fiduciary holding securities under an employee benefit plan of the Company becomes the beneficial owner (as defined in Rule 13d-3 under the Securities Exchange Act of 1934), directly or indirectly, of 50% or more of the Company's then outstanding voting common stock; or

(ii) The shareholders of the Company approve a merger or consolidation of the Company with any other corporation, other than a merger or consolidation (a) in which a majority of the directors of the surviving entity were directors of the Company prior to such consolidation or merger, and (b) which would result in the voting securities of the Company outstanding immediately prior thereto continuing to represent (either by remaining outstanding or by being changed into voting securities of the surviving entity) more than 50% of the combined voting power of the voting securities of the surviving entity outstanding immediately after such merger or consolidation; or

(iii) The shareholders approve a plan of complete liquidation of the Company or an agreement for the sale or disposition by the Company of all or substantially all of the Company's assets.

(3) A **Disability** shall mean the inability of Executive to engage in any substantial gainful activity by reason of any medically determinable physical or mental impairment that can be expected to result in death or can be expected to last for a continuous period of not less than twelve (12) months. Executive shall be considered to have a Disability (i) if he is determined to be totally disabled by the Social Security Administration or (ii) if he is determined to be disabled under HCC's long-term disability plan in which Executive participates and if such plan defines disability in a manner that is consistent with the immediately preceding sentence.

(4) A **Good Reason** shall mean any of the following (without Executive's express written consent):

(i) A material diminution in Executive's authority, duties or responsibilities;

(ii) A material diminution in Executive's Base Salary;

(iii) A relocation of the Company's principal executive offices, or Executive's relocation to any place other than the principal executive offices, exceeding a distance of fifty (50) miles

from the Company's current executive office located in Houston, Texas, except for reasonably required travel by Executive on the Company's business;

(iv) Any material breach by the Company of any provision of this Agreement; or

(v) The termination or replacement of Executive as CEO, including after a Change of Control.

However, Good Reason shall exist with respect to a matter specified above only if such matter is not corrected by the Company within thirty (30) days after the Company's receipt of written notice of such matter from Executive. Any such notice from Executive must be provided within thirty (30) days after the initial existence of the specified event. In no event shall a termination by Executive occurring more than ninety (90) days following the initial date of the event described above be a termination for Good Reason due to such event.

(5) **Termination Date** shall mean the date Executive's employment with the Company terminates or is terminated for any reason pursuant to this Agreement (including due to the lapse of the Agreement after the Expiration Date). For purposes of Sections 4(d), 6, and 19(a), Executive's employment with the Company shall be considered terminated only if Executive has a separation from service with the Company and its controlled subsidiaries and affiliates as such term is defined for purposes of sections 409A(a)(2)(A)(i) and 409A(a)(2)(B)(i) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, as amended (including any related Treasury regulations) (the Code). To the extent permitted by Code section 409A, Executive may be considered to have such a separation from service even if (i) he continues to provide services as a non-employee director of the Company or any of its controlled subsidiaries or affiliates and/or (ii) he continues to provide limited services as an employee or independent contractor of the Company or any of its controlled subsidiaries or affiliates.

(b) **Termination Without Cause, or Termination For Good Reason: Benefits.** In the event the Company terminates Executive's employment with the Company without Cause during the Term, or if Executive terminates his employment with the Company for Good Reason during the Term, this Agreement shall terminate and Executive shall be entitled to the following severance benefits:

(1) An amount equal to the Base Salary that would have been payable after the Termination Date and before the Expiration Date or for twelve (12) months, whichever period is longer, payable in a lump sum in cash, appropriately discounted for present value at the rate of return on 90-day Treasury bills in existence at the Termination Date. Such amount shall be paid within sixty (60) days after the Termination Date and, in any event, shall be paid after such Termination Date and before March 15 of the year following the year containing such Termination Date; provided, however, that if upon the Termination Date Executive is a specified employee within the meaning of Code section 409A, then payment of such amount shall be deferred until the date that is six (6) months following the Termination Date in accordance with Section 19(a). Executive shall not have the right to designate the taxable year of such payment;

(2) An amount equal to the Deferred Compensation that would have been accrued after the Termination Date and before the Expiration Date or for twelve (12) months, whichever period is longer, payable in a lump sum in cash, appropriately discounted for present value at the rate of return on 90-day Treasury bills in existence at the Termination Date. Such amount shall be paid within sixty (60) days after the Termination Date and, in any event, shall be paid after such Termination Date and before March 15 of the year following the year containing such Termination Date; provided, however, that if upon the Termination Date Executive is a specified employee within the meaning of Code section 409A, then payment of such amount shall be deferred until the date that is six (6) months

following the Termination Date in accordance with Section 19(a). Executive shall not have the right to designate the taxable year of such payment;

(3) An amount equal to the average of the bonuses that were paid to Executive over the last two years, except that in the event of a termination for Good Reason pursuant to Section 4(a)(4)(v). Executive shall receive an amount equal to the aggregate of the Base Salary and bonus received by Executive for the two (2) full calendar years prior to such termination. In each case, the payment of such bonus, if any, shall be payable in a lump sum and shall occur on or after the Termination Date and before March 15 of the year following the year in which the Termination Date occurs. Notwithstanding the foregoing provisions of this subsection, if upon the Termination Date Executive is a specified employee within the meaning of Code section 409A, then payment of any Incentive Plan or other bonus payments (as applicable) otherwise payable during the first six (6) months following the Termination Date shall be deferred until the date that is six (6) months following the Termination Date in accordance with Section 19(a);

(4) A lump sum cash payment in the amount of \$4,650.00 times the number of months after the Termination Date and before the Expiration Date in lieu of any other benefits that cease on the Termination Date. Such amount shall be appropriately discounted for present value at the rate of return on 90-day Treasury bills in existence at the Termination Date and shall be paid within sixty (60) days after the Termination Date and, in any event, shall be paid after such Termination Date and before March 15 of the year following the year containing such Termination Date; provided, however, that if upon the Termination Date Executive is a specified employee within the meaning of Code section 409A, then payment of such amount shall be deferred until the date that is six (6) months following the Termination Date in accordance with Section 19(a). Executive shall not be entitled to any additional payments for such other benefits. Executive shall not have the right to designate the taxable year of such payment;

(5) Health coverage or reimbursement for the cost of health coverage as provided in Section 3(e)(3);

(6) All accrued Base Salary through the Termination Date and all unreimbursed expenses through the Termination Date in accordance with Section 3(d). Such amounts shall be paid to Executive in a lump sum in cash within sixty (60) days after the Termination Date; and

(7) Executive shall be free to accept other employment, and there shall be no offset of any employment compensation earned by Executive in such other employment against payments due Executive under this Section. Without limiting the foregoing, there shall be no offset of any compensation received from such other employment against the Base Salary set forth above unless Executive accepts employment that is in violation of his obligations under Section 5 of this Agreement.

(c) **Termination In Event of Death: Benefits.** If Executive's employment is terminated by reason of Executive's death during the Term, this Agreement shall terminate without further obligation to Executive's legal representatives under this Agreement, other than for

(1) Payment of all accrued Base Salary and unreimbursed expenses (in accordance with Section 3(d)) due through the date of death. Such amounts shall be paid to Executive's estate in a lump sum in cash within thirty (30) days after the Termination Date;

(2) Health coverage or reimbursement for the cost of health coverage for Executive's eligible qualified beneficiaries in accordance with Section 3(e)(2);

(3) A lump sum cash payment in the amount of \$4,650.00 times the lesser of (i) eighteen (18) months or (ii) the number of months after Executive's death and before the Expiration Date in lieu of any other benefits that cease on the date of Executive's death. Such amount shall be appropriately discounted for present value at the rate of return on 90-day Treasury bills in existence at the Termination Date and shall be paid to Executive's estate within thirty (30) days after the Termination Date and, in any event, shall be paid after such Termination Date and before March 15 of the year following the year containing such Termination Date. Executive shall not be entitled to any additional payments for such other benefits;

(4) Payment of an additional amount equal to Executive's Base Salary for the lesser of (i) eighteen (18) months or (ii) the period from the Termination Date to the Expiration Date. Such amount shall be appropriately discounted for present value at the rate of return on 90-day Treasury bills in existence at the Termination Date and shall be paid to Executive's estate in a lump sum in cash within thirty (30) days after the Termination Date; provided that such amount shall in any event be paid after such Termination Date and before March 15 of the year following the year containing such Termination Date;

(5) Payment of an additional amount equal to the Deferred Compensation that would have been accrued after the Termination Date and before the Expiration Date or for eighteen (18) months, whichever period is shorter. Such amount shall be appropriately discounted for present value at the rate of return on 90-day Treasury bills in existence at the Termination Date and shall be paid to Executive's estate in a lump sum in cash within thirty (30) days after the Termination Date; provided that such amount shall in any event be paid after such Termination Date and before March 15 of the year following the year containing such Termination Date;

(6) An amount equal to the total Consulting Fees (as hereinafter defined) that would have been payable during the Consulting Period (as hereinafter defined) had Executive retired on the Expiration Date and provided Consulting Services (as hereinafter defined) during such period in accordance with Section 6, payable in a lump sum in cash, appropriately discounted for present value at the rate of return on 90-day Treasury bills in existence at the Termination Date. Such amount shall be paid within thirty (30) days after the Termination Date; and

(7) If Executive is a participant in the Incentive Plan, his entitlement to a bonus following the Termination Date shall be determined in accordance with the terms of the Incentive Plan. If Executive is not a participant in the Incentive Plan, he shall be entitled to consideration for a bonus payment under Section 3(c)(2) with respect to the year in which Executive dies; provided that the payment of any such bonus, if any, shall in any event occur on or after such date of death and before March 15 of the year following the year of death.

(d) **Termination In Event of Disability: Benefits.** If Executive's employment is terminated by reason of Executive's Disability during the Term, this Agreement shall terminate and Executive shall be entitled to the following benefits:

(1) Payment of all accrued Base Salary through the Termination Date and all unreimbursed expenses through the Termination Date in accordance with Section 3(d). Such amounts shall be paid to Executive in a lump sum in cash within thirty (30) days after the Termination Date;

(2) Health coverage or reimbursement for the cost of health coverage as provided in Section 3(e)(3);

(3) Payment of an additional amount equal to Executive's Base Salary for the lesser of (i) eighteen (18) months or (ii) the period from the Termination Date to the Expiration Date. Such amount shall be paid to Executive in a lump sum in cash, appropriately discounted for present value at the rate of return on 90-day Treasury bills in existence at the Termination Date, within thirty (30) days after the Termination Date and, in any event, shall be paid after such Termination Date and before March 15 of the year following the year containing such Termination Date;

(4) Payment of an additional amount equal to the Deferred Compensation that would have been accrued after the Termination Date and before the Expiration Date or for eighteen (18) months, whichever period is shorter. Such amount shall be paid to Executive in a lump sum in cash, appropriately discounted for present value at the rate of return on 90-day Treasury bills in existence at the Termination Date, within thirty (30) days after the Termination Date and, in any event, shall be paid after such Termination Date and before March 15 of the year following the year containing such Termination Date;

(5) A lump sum cash payment in the amount of \$4,650.00 times the number of months after the Termination Date and before the Expiration Date in lieu of any other benefits that cease on the Termination Date. Such amount shall be appropriately discounted for present value at the rate of return on 90-day Treasury bills in existence at the Termination Date and shall be paid within thirty (30) days after the Termination Date and, in any event, shall be paid after such Termination Date and before March 15 of the year following the year containing such Termination Date. Executive shall not be entitled to any additional payments for such other benefits;

(6) An amount equal to the total Consulting Fees (as hereinafter defined) that would have been payable during the Consulting Period (as hereinafter defined) had Executive retired on the Expiration Date and provided Consulting Services (as hereinafter defined) during such period in accordance with Section 6, payable in a lump sum in cash, appropriately discounted for present value at the rate of return on 90-day Treasury bills in existence at the Termination Date. Such amount shall be paid within thirty (30) days after the Termination Date and, in any event, shall be paid after such Termination Date and before March 15 of the year following the year containing such Termination Date; and

(7) If Executive is a participant in the Incentive Plan, his entitlement to a bonus following the Termination Date shall be determined in accordance with the terms of the Incentive Plan. If Executive is not a participant in the Incentive Plan, he shall be entitled to consideration for a bonus payment under Section 3(c)(2) with respect to the year in which Executive's employment terminates due to Disability; provided that any payment of such bonus, if any, shall in any event occur on or after such Termination Date and before March 15 of the year following the year containing such Termination Date.

(e) **Voluntary Termination by Executive and Termination for Cause: Benefits.** Executive may terminate his employment with the Company without Good Reason (excluding a termination pursuant to Section 4(f)) by giving written notice of his intent and stating an effective Termination Date at least ninety (90) days after the date of such notice; provided, however, that the Company may accelerate such effective date by paying Executive's Base Salary and crediting Executive's Deferred Compensation through the proposed Termination Date and also vesting awards (including stock option awards granted on, before, or after the Effective Date) that would have vested but for this acceleration of the proposed Termination Date. The provisions of this Section 4(e) requiring the vesting of any stock options due to the Company's acceleration of the Termination Date constitute an amendment to the terms of each applicable option agreement. Upon such a termination by Executive, or upon termination for Cause by the Company, this Agreement shall terminate, except as provided in Section 6, and the Company shall pay to Executive

(1) Payment of all accrued Base Salary through the Termination Date and all unreimbursed expenses through the Termination Date in accordance with Section 3(d). Such amounts shall be paid to Executive in a lump sum in cash within sixty (60) days after the Termination Date; and

(2) Health coverage or reimbursement for the cost of health coverage as provided in Section 3(e)(3).

(f) **Director Positions.** Upon termination of employment for any reason, Executive shall immediately tender his resignation from any and all officer, Board, and other board of director positions held with the Company and/or any of its subsidiaries and affiliates.

5. Non-Competition, Non-Solicitation and Confidentiality. At the inception of this employment relationship, and continuing on an ongoing basis, the Company agrees to give Executive Confidential Information (including, without limitation, Confidential Information, as defined below, of the Company's affiliates) which Executive has not had access to or knowledge of before the execution of this Agreement. At the time this Agreement is made, the Company agrees to provide Executive with initial and ongoing Specialized Training, which Executive has not had access to or knowledge of before the execution of this Agreement. Specialized Training includes the training the Company provides to its employees that is unique to its business and enhances Executive's ability to perform Executive's job duties effectively. Specialized Training includes, without limitation, orientation training; sales methods/techniques training; operation methods training; and computer and systems training.

In consideration of the foregoing, Executive agrees as follows:

(a) **Non-Competition During Employment.** Executive agrees that, in consideration for the Company's promise to provide Executive with Confidential Information and Specialized Training, during the Term he will not compete, or prepare to compete, with the Company by engaging in the conception, design, development, production, marketing, or servicing of any product or service that is substantially similar to the products or services which the Company provides, and that he will not work for, in any capacity, assist, or become affiliated with as an owner, partner, etc., either directly or indirectly, any individual or business which offers or performs services, or offers or provides products substantially similar to the services and products provided by Company.

(b) **Conflicts of Interest.** Executive agrees that during the Term, he will not engage, either directly or indirectly, in any activity (a Conflict of Interest) which might adversely affect the Company or its affiliates, including ownership of a material interest in any supplier, contractor, distributor, subcontractor, customer or other entity with which the Company does business or accepting any material payment, service, loan, gift, trip, entertainment, or other favor from a supplier, contractor, distributor, subcontractor, customer or other entity with which the Company does business, and that Executive will promptly inform the Chairman of the Board of the Company in writing as to each offer received by Executive to engage in any such activity. Executive further agrees to disclose to the Company any other facts of which Executive becomes aware which might in Executive's good faith judgment reasonably be expected to involve or give rise to a Conflict of Interest or potential Conflict of Interest.

(c) **Non-Competition After Termination.** Executive agrees that Executive shall not, at any time during the period of two (2) years after the termination of the Term for any reason, within any of the markets in which the Company has sold products or services or formulated a plan to sell products or services into a market during the last twelve (12) months of Executive's employ; engage in or contribute Executive's knowledge to any work which is competitive with or similar to a product, process, apparatus, service, or development on which Executive worked or with respect to which Executive had access to Confidential Information while employed by the Company; provided however, that this Section 5(c) shall

not operate to prevent Executive from engaging in retail insurance or re-insurance activities during such period to the extent such activities do not compete or permit any other person or entity to compete with any business the Company or its Affiliates were engaged in at the time of such termination. Executive shall be precluded from service as a member of the Board of Directors of any insurance company or insurance holding company during the Restricted Period.. Following the expiration of said two (2) year period, Executive shall continue to be obligated under the Confidential Information Section of this Agreement not to use or to disclose Confidential Information of the Company so long as it shall not be publicly available. It is understood that the geographical area set forth in this covenant is divisible so that if this clause is invalid or unenforceable in an included geographic area, that area is severable and the clause remains in effect for the remaining included geographic areas in which the clause is valid.

(d) **Non-Solicitation of Customers.** Executive further agrees that for a period of two (2) years after the termination of the Term, he will not solicit or accept any business from any customer or client or prospective customer or client with whom Executive dealt or solicited while employed by Company during the last twelve (12) months of his employment.

(e) **Non-Solicitation of Employees.** Executive agrees that for the duration of the Term, and for a period of two (2) years after the termination of the Term he will not either directly or indirectly, on his own behalf or on behalf of others, solicit, attempt to hire, or hire any person employed by the Company or any person that has been employed by the Company within the previous six (6) months to work for Executive or for another entity, firm, corporation, or individual.

(f) **Confidential Information.** Executive further agrees that he will not, except as the Company may otherwise consent or direct in writing, reveal or disclose, sell, use, lecture upon, publish or otherwise disclose to any third party any Confidential Information or proprietary information of the Company, or authorize anyone else to do these things at any time either during or subsequent to his employment with the Company. This Section shall continue in full force and effect after termination of Executive's employment and after the termination of this Agreement. Executive's obligations under this Section with respect to any specific Confidential Information and proprietary information shall cease when that specific portion of the Confidential Information and proprietary information becomes publicly known, in its entirety and without combining portions of such information obtained separately. It is understood that such Confidential Information and proprietary information of the Company include matters that Executive conceives or develops, as well as matters Executive learns from other employees of Company. Confidential Information is defined to include information: (1) disclosed to or known by Executive as a consequence of or through his employment with the Company; (2) not generally known outside the Company; and (3) which relates to any aspect of the Company or its business, finances, operation plans, budgets, research, or strategic development. Confidential Information includes, but is not limited to the Company's trade secrets, proprietary information, financial documents, long range plans, customer lists, employer compensation, marketing strategy, data bases, costing data, computer software developed by the Company, investments made by the Company, and any information provided to the Company by a third party under restrictions against disclosure or use by the Company or others.

(g) **Return of Documents, Equipment, Etc.** All writings, records, and other documents and things comprising, containing, describing, discussing, explaining, or evidencing any Confidential Information, and all equipment, components, parts, tools, and the like in Executive's custody or possession that have been obtained or prepared in the course of Executive's employment with the Company shall be the exclusive property of the Company, shall not be copied and/or removed from the premises of the Company, except in pursuit of the business of the Company, and shall be delivered to the Company, without Executive retaining any copies, upon notification of the termination of Executive's employment or at any other time requested by the Company. The Company shall have the right to retain, access, and inspect all property of Executive of any kind in the office, work area, Executive's residence or

houses, and on the premises of the Company upon termination of Executive's employment and at any time during employment by the Company to ensure compliance with the terms of this Agreement. All office equipment, telecommunications equipment and equipment of a like or similar kind installed by the Company at the residence of Executive to facilitate necessary communication and assist Executive in the performance of his duties shall be conveyed to Executive without the payment of consideration upon termination of Executive's employment for any reason and after an opportunity for inspection and removal of Company information. The Parties understand and agree that the materials described in this Section 5(g) exclude all of Executive's personal files, personal e-mail correspondence, personal notes and professional readers.

(h) **Reaffirm Obligations.** Upon termination of his employment with the Company, Executive, if requested by Company, shall reaffirm in writing Executive's recognition of the importance of maintaining the confidentiality of the Company's Confidential Information and proprietary information, and reaffirm any other obligations set forth in this Agreement.

(i) **Prior Disclosure.** Executive represents and warrants that he has not used or disclosed any Confidential Information he may have obtained from the Company prior to signing this Agreement, in any way inconsistent with the provisions of this Agreement.

(j) **Confidential Information of Prior Companies.** Executive will not disclose or use during the period of his employment with the Company any proprietary or Confidential Information or copyrighted works which Executive may have acquired because of employment with an employer other than the Company or acquired from any other third party, whether such information is in Executive's memory or embodied in a writing or other physical form.

(k) **Breach.** Executive agrees that any breach of Sections 5(a), (c), (d), (e) or (f) above cannot be remedied solely by money damages, and that in addition to any other remedies the Company may have, the Company is entitled to obtain injunctive relief against Executive. Nothing herein, however, shall be construed as limiting Company's right to pursue any other available remedy at law or in equity, including recovery of damages and termination of this Agreement and/or any payments that may be due pursuant to this Agreement; provided, no payments to Executive under Section 6 shall be offset for any purpose, so long as Executive continues to provide the Consulting Services.

(l) **Right to Enter Agreement.** Executive represents and covenants to Company that he has full power and authority to enter into this Agreement and that the execution of this Agreement will not breach or constitute a default of any other agreement or contract to which he is a party or by which he is bound.

(m) **Extension of Post-Employment Restrictions.** In the event Executive breaches Sections 5(c), (d), or (e) above, the restrictive time periods contained in those provisions will be extended by the period of time Executive was in violation of such provisions. The restrictive time periods contained in Sections 5(c), (d), or (e) shall likewise be extended during any time period in which litigation is pending by Executive against the Company or by the Company against Executive with regard to the enforcement of the provisions of Section 5 of this Agreement.

(n) **Enforceability.** The agreements contained in Section 5 are independent of the other agreements contained herein. Accordingly, failure of the Company to comply with any of its obligations outside of this Section does not excuse Executive from complying with the agreements contained herein.

(o) **Ownership in Publicly Traded Company.** The Executive's ownership in a publicly traded business entity in competition with the Company shall not be regarded by the Parties as

employment in a competitive activity in violation of this Section, provided that Executive's ownership interest in such company is passive and constitutes no more than a two percent (2%) ownership in the stock of such publicly traded company.

6. Consulting Agreement. Upon Executive's cessation as an employee of the Company during or after the Term for any reason other than death or Disability, Executive agrees to serve and the Company agrees to retain Executive as a consultant (as an independent contractor and not as an employee), for a period of six (6) years and nine (9) months (the Consulting Period). The Executive shall not be entitled to any benefits provided to active Company employees generally during the Consulting Period, but shall be entitled to any payments required under this Agreement, without any offset for the additional payments provided in this Section 6.

(a) The Executive agrees to provide, if requested, up to but not to exceed a maximum of 600 hours of service per calendar year during the Consulting Period (the Consulting Services), as required by the Company, provided, however, that the total hours of Consulting Services shall not exceed 1,350 during the entire Consulting Period, and provided, further, that, unless waived by Executive, he shall not be required to perform Consulting Services for more than four (4) days during any one (1) calendar week or more than eight (8) hours in any one twenty four (24) hour period.

(b) For each month during the Consulting Period, HCC shall pay Executive an amount (the Consulting Fees) equal to the annual consulting fee of \$256,200 divided by twelve (12). Such amount shall be payable monthly, in arrears, beginning on the last day of the month containing the Termination Date; provided, however, that if upon the Termination Date Executive is a specified employee within the meaning of Code section 409A, then payment of any Consulting Fees otherwise payable during the first six (6) months following the Termination Date shall be deferred until the date that is six (6) months following the Termination Date in accordance with Section 19(a). Subject to early termination due to a failure to provide Consulting Services during a period of twenty-four (24)-consecutive months (as described below), Executive's right to receive Consulting Fees under this Section 6 shall be fully vested as of the date of this Agreement.

(c) The Consulting Services to be provided shall be commensurate with Executive's training, background, experience and prior duties with the Company. Executive agrees to make himself reasonably available to provide such Consulting Services during the Consulting Period; provided, however, the Company agrees that it shall provide reasonable advance notice to Executive of its expected consulting needs and any request for Consulting Services hereunder shall not unreasonably interfere with Executive's other business activities and personal affairs as determined in good faith by Executive. In addition, Executive shall not be required to perform any requested Consulting Services which, in Executive's good faith opinion, would cause Executive to breach any fiduciary duty or contractual obligation Executive may have to another employer. Executive's travel time shall constitute hours of Consulting Services for purposes of this Section 6. The Parties contemplate that, when appropriate, the Consulting Services shall be performed at Executive's office or residence and at the Company's executive offices in Houston, Texas and may be performed at such other locations only as they may mutually agree upon. Executive shall be properly reimbursed for all travel and other expenses reasonably incurred by Executive in rendering the Consulting Services.

(d) If Executive fails or refuses to provide Consulting Services as reasonably requested within any consecutive twenty-four (24)-month period other than due to death or Disability, the Company shall have no further obligation to pay Consulting Fees to Executive under this Section 6, and Executive shall have no further obligation to provide Consulting Services.

(e) In the event of Executive's death or Disability during the Consulting Period, the Company shall pay to Executive (or Executive's estate in the case of Executive's death) the remaining Consulting Fees for the Consulting Period in a lump sum in cash, appropriately discounted for present value at the rate of return on 90-day Treasury bills in existence at the date of Executive's death or Disability. Such amount shall be paid within thirty (30) days after the date of Executive's death or Disability; provided, however, that with respect to any such payment that would be made as a result of Executive's Disability, if such payment would be made within six (6) months after the Termination Date and if Executive is a specified employee within the meaning of Code section 409A as of the Termination Date, then such payment shall be deferred until the date that is six (6) months following the Termination Date in accordance with Section 19(a).

(f) Any period during which Executive is subject to restrictions under Sections 5(c)-5(e) shall run concurrently with Executive's Consulting Period.

7. Assignment. This Agreement cannot be assigned by Executive. The Company may assign this Agreement only to a successor (whether direct or indirect, by purchase, merger, consolidation or otherwise) to all or substantially all of the business and assets of the Company provided such successor expressly agrees in writing reasonably satisfactory to Executive to assume and perform this Agreement in the same manner and to the same extent that the Company would be required to perform it if no such succession and assignment had taken place. The Company shall obtain the assumption and performance of this Agreement by any such successor; provided, however, that such commitment by the Company (including a failure to satisfy such commitment) shall not give Executive the right to object to or enjoin any transaction among the Company, any of its affiliates, and any such successor. To the extent a failure by the Company to satisfy the foregoing commitment constitutes a material breach of this Agreement and to the extent not cured in accordance with Section 4(a)(4), such failure shall constitute Good Reason pursuant to Section 4(a)(4)(iv).

8. Binding Agreement. Executive understands that his obligations under this Agreement are binding upon Executive's heirs, successors, personal representatives, and legal representatives.

9. Survivability. The provisions of this Agreement which call for performance after the end of the Term, including, without limitation, the agreements contained in Section 3(e)(2)-(3) and Sections 5 and 6 (to the extent applicable) shall survive the termination of this Agreement for any reason.

10. Notices. All notices pursuant to this Agreement shall be in writing and sent certified mail, return receipt requested, addressed as set forth below, or by delivering the same in person to such party, or by transmission by facsimile to the number set forth below. Notice deposited in the United States Mail, mailed in the manner described herein above, shall be effective upon deposit. Notice given in any other manner shall be effective only if and when received:

If to Executive: John N. Molbeck, Jr.
11111 Claymore Road
Houston, Texas 77024
Fax: (832) 358-9529

If to Company: HCC Insurance Holdings, Inc.
13403 Northwest Freeway
Houston, Texas 77040
Fax: (713) 462-2401
Attention: General Counsel

11. Waiver. No waiver by either party to this Agreement of any right to enforce any term or condition of this Agreement, or of any breach hereof, shall be deemed a waiver of such right in the future or of any other right or remedy available under this Agreement.

12. Severability. If any provision of this Agreement is determined to be void, invalid, unenforceable, or against public policy, such provisions shall be deemed severable from the Agreement, and the remaining provisions of the Agreement will remain unaffected and in full force and effect.

13. Arbitration. Except as provided in subsection (d) below, in the event any dispute arises out of or related to Executive's employment with or by the Company, or separation/termination therefrom, which cannot be resolved by the Parties to this Agreement, such dispute shall be submitted to final and binding arbitration. Except as provided in subsection (d) below, arbitration of such disputes is mandatory and in lieu of any and all civil causes of action and lawsuits either party may have against the other arising out of Executive's employment with the Company, or separation therefrom.

(a) The arbitration shall be conducted in accordance with the National Rules for the resolution of Employment Disputes of the American Arbitration Association (AAA). If the Parties cannot agree on an arbitrator, a list of seven (7) arbitrators will be requested from AAA, and the arbitrator will be selected using alternate strikes with Executive striking first. Subject to subsection (c) below, cost of the arbitration will be shared equally by Executive and Company. Such arbitration shall be held in Houston, Texas.

(b) Judgment on the award rendered by the arbitrator may be entered in any court having jurisdiction thereof by the filing of a petition to enforce the award. Costs of filing may be recovered by the party that initiates such action to have the award enforced.

(c) The Company shall promptly reimburse Executive for all eligible, reasonable costs and expenses incurred in connection with any dispute, controversy, or claim submitted to binding arbitration in accordance with this Section in an amount up to, but not exceeding an amount equal to twenty percent (20%) of Executive's Base Salary (or, if the dispute arises during the Consulting Period, Executive's Base Salary as in effect immediately prior to the beginning of the Consulting Period) per taxable year of Executive, unless Executive was terminated for Cause, in which event Executive shall not be entitled to reimbursement unless and until it is determined he was terminated other than for Cause. To be eligible for reimbursement under this subsection (c), (1) the expenses must be incurred during the period beginning on the Effective Date and ending on the date that is ten years after the end of the Term and (2) the expenses must be submitted to the Company for reimbursement within 90 days after the end of the taxable year of Executive in which the expenses were incurred. Amounts eligible for reimbursement shall be paid to Executive before the last day of the taxable year of Executive following the taxable year in which the expenses were incurred. The amount of expenses eligible for reimbursement during Executive's taxable year may not affect the expenses eligible for reimbursement in any other taxable year of Executive. Executive's right to reimbursement under this subsection (c) may not be assigned, alienated, or exchanged for any other benefit.

(d) It is specifically agreed by the Parties that any enforcement action by the Company against Executive for equitable relief, including, but not limited to, injunctive relief under Section 5 of this Agreement shall not be subject to this Section requiring arbitration and that the Company shall not be required to seek arbitration against Executive for any purported violation by Executive of his obligations under Section 5 of this Agreement.

14. Entire Agreement. The terms and provisions contained herein shall constitute the entire agreement between the parties with respect to Executive's employment with Company during the time

period covered by this Agreement. This Agreement replaces and supersedes any and all existing agreements entered into between Executive and the Company relating generally to the same subject matter, if any, and shall be binding upon Executive's heirs, executors, administrators, or other legal representatives or assigns.

15. Modification of Agreement. This Agreement may not be changed or modified or released or discharged or abandoned or otherwise terminated, in whole or in part, except by an instrument in writing signed by Executive and an officer or other authorized executive of Company.

16. Effective Date. It is understood by the Parties that this Agreement shall be effective as of the Effective Date when signed by both the Company and Executive.

17. Governing Law. This Agreement shall be governed by and construed in accordance with the laws of the State of Texas without regard to conflict of laws principles.

18. Jurisdiction and Venue. With respect to any litigation regarding this Agreement, Executive agrees to venue in the state or federal courts in Harris County, Texas, and agrees to waive and does hereby waive any defenses and/or arguments based upon improper venue and/or lack of personal jurisdiction. By entering into this Agreement, Executive agrees to personal jurisdiction in the state and federal courts in Harris County, Texas.

19. Compliance With Code Section 409A.

(a) **Delay in Payments.** Notwithstanding anything to the contrary in this Agreement, (i) if upon the Termination Date Executive is a specified employee within the meaning of Code section 409A (determined by applying the default rules applicable under such Code section except to the extent such rules are modified by a written resolution that is adopted by the Compensation Committee and that applies for purposes of all deferred compensation plans of the Company and its affiliates) and the deferral of any amounts otherwise payable under this Agreement as a result of Executive's termination of employment is necessary in order to prevent any accelerated or additional tax to Executive under Code section 409A, then the Company will defer the payment of any such amounts hereunder until the date that is six months following the Termination Date, at which time any such delayed amounts will be paid to Executive in a single lump sum, with interest from the date otherwise payable at the rate of return on 90-day Treasury bills in existence at the Termination Date and (ii) if any other payments of money or other benefits due to Executive hereunder could cause the application of an accelerated or additional tax under Code section 409A, such payments or other benefits shall be deferred if deferral will make such payment or other benefits compliant under Code Section 409A.

(b) **Overall Compliance.** To the extent any provision of this Agreement or any omission from the Agreement would (absent this Section 19(b)) cause amounts to be includable in income under Code section 409A(a)(1), the Agreement shall be deemed amended to the extent necessary to comply with the requirements of Code section 409A; *provided, however*, that this Section 19(b) shall not apply and shall not be construed to amend any provision of the Agreement to the extent this Section 19(b) or any amendment required thereby would itself cause any amounts to be includable in income under Code section 409A(a)(1).

(c) **Reformation.** If any provision of this Agreement would cause Executive to occur any additional tax under Code section 409A, the parties will in good faith attempt to reform the provision in a manner that maintains, to the extent possible, the original intent of the applicable provision without violating the provisions of Code section 409A.

(d) **Code Section 409A Excise Tax Gross Up.** If the terms of this Agreement (as may be modified under Sections 19(b) and 19(c)) or any action or omission by the Company in its performance under this Agreement, causes any payment or benefit received or to be received by Executive from the Company pursuant to this Agreement (including without limitation any payments under Section 4(b)(7)) (the Agreement Payments) to be subject to the excise tax and additional interest imposed by Code section 409A(a)(1)(B) (the 409A Excise Tax), the Company shall pay Executive, at the time specified below, an additional amount (the 409A Gross-Up Payment) such that the net amount that Executive retains, after deduction of the 409A Excise Tax on the Agreement Payments; any federal, state, and local income and employment taxes; any additional 409A Excise Taxes upon the 409A Gross-Up Payment; and any interest, penalties, or additions to tax payable by Executive with respect thereto, shall be equal to the total present value (using the applicable federal rate (as defined in section 1274(d) of the Code) in such calculation) of the Agreement Payments at the time such payments are to be made. Payment of such additional amount shall occur on or before the earlier to occur of (i) the date which the Company is required to withhold any such taxes and (ii) the date on which Executive remits such taxes to the Internal Revenue Service (to the extent not withheld). For purposes of determining the amount of the 409A Gross-Up Payment, Executive shall be deemed to pay federal income taxes at the highest marginal rates of federal income taxation applicable to individuals in the calendar year in which the 409A Gross-Up Payment is to be made and state and local income taxes at the highest marginal rates of taxation applicable to individuals as are in effect in the state and locality of Executive s residence in the calendar year in which the 409A Gross-Up Payment is to be made, net of the maximum reduction in federal income taxes that can be obtained from deduction of such state and local taxes, taking into account any limitations applicable to individuals subject to federal income tax at the highest marginal rates. This Section 19(d) does not require the Company to pay, reimburse, or gross up Executive with respect to excise taxes imposed under any other section of the Code or under state or local law.

20. Termination of Original Employment Agreement. Effective the Effective Date, the Original Employment Agreement is terminated.

[remainder of page intentionally left blank]

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the Parties have executed this Agreement in multiple copies, effective as of the Effective Date.

HCC INSURANCE HOLDINGS, INC.

By: /s/ Christopher J. B. Williams
Christopher J. B. Williams
Chairman of the Board

/s/ John N. Molbeck, Jr.
John N. Molbeck, Jr.

SIGNATURE PAGE
EMPLOYMENT AGREEMENT MOLBECK

Exhibit 3(1)
Option Vesting and Exercise Provisions

Termination of Employment.

1. In the event the employment of the Employee is terminated by the Employee for Good Reason (as such term is defined in the Employment Agreement between the Company and the Employee entered into on May ____, 2009 but effective as of the 20th day of May, 2009 (the *Employment Agreement*)) or by the Company without Cause (as such term is defined in the Employment Agreement), the Employee shall have the right to exercise this option for the full number of shares not previously exercised or any portion thereof, except as to the issuance of fractional shares, to the full extent of this option at any time within the unexpired term of this option.
2. In the event the employment of the Employee is terminated for Cause or by Employee without Good Reason, the Employee shall have the right at any time within thirty (30) days after the termination of such employment or, if shorter, during the unexpired term of this option, to exercise this option for the full number of shares not previously exercised or any portion thereof, except as to the issuance of fractional shares, but only to the extent this option was otherwise exercisable in accordance with Paragraph 4 hereof as of the date of such termination of employment.
3. In the event the employment of the Employee is terminated by reason of Disability, then the Employee shall have the right to exercise this option for the full number of shares not previously exercised or any portion thereof, except as to the issuance of fractional shares, to the full extent of this option at any time within the unexpired term of this option.
4. In the event of the death of the Employee while in the employ of the Company or the Subsidiaries, this option may be exercised for the full number of shares not previously exercised, or any portion thereof, except as to the issuance of fractional shares, to the full extent of this option at any time within the unexpired term of this option, by the person or persons to whom the Employee's rights under this option shall pass by the Employee's will or by the laws of descent and distribution, whichever is applicable.
5. If Employee elects to voluntarily terminate his employment with the Company for any reason (or no reason) pursuant to Section 4(b), then the Employee shall have the right to exercise this option for the full number of shares not previously exercised or any portion thereof, except as to the issuance of fractional shares, to the full extent of this option at any time within the unexpired term of this option.

EXHIBIT 3(1)

HCC INSURANCE HOLDINGS, INC. NAMES
JOHN N. MOLBECK, JR. CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

HOUSTON (May 6, 2009) . . .

HCC Insurance Holdings, Inc. (NYSE: HCC) announced today that the Company's Board of Directors has appointed John N. Molbeck, Jr. Chief Executive Officer of HCC, succeeding Frank J. Bramanti, who is retiring as CEO but will remain on the Board of Directors. In addition to his new position as CEO, Molbeck will continue as President of the Company.

We believe the time is right for John Molbeck to step into this role, said HCC Board Chairman Christopher J. B. Williams. John has consistently shown his ability to successfully lead the Company. The Board believes John's experience leading our insurance operations as President and Chief Operating Officer has prepared him for assuming the role of CEO.

The Board is grateful for Frank Bramanti's leadership since November 2006 when he came out of retirement to take on the CEO position. He led HCC through the most difficult time in our history and through the 2008 financial market meltdown from which HCC has emerged unscathed, Williams added. As a continuing Board member, Frank's 29 years of experience with HCC will prove invaluable to our shareholders.

The Company will discuss the management changes on its first quarter 2009 earnings conference scheduled for Wednesday, May 6, 2009, at 8:00 a.m. Central Daylight Time. To participate, the number for domestic calls will be (800) 374-0290 and the number for international calls will be (706) 634-1061. There will also be a live webcast available on a listen-only basis that can be accessed through the HCC website at www.hcc.com.

Headquartered in Houston, Texas, HCC Insurance Holdings, Inc. (HCC) is a leading international specialty insurance group with offices across the United States and in Bermuda, Ireland, Spain and the United Kingdom. HCC has assets of \$8.6 billion, shareholders' equity of \$2.7 billion and is rated AA (Very Strong) by Standard & Poor's and AA (Very Strong) by Fitch Ratings. In addition, HCC's major domestic insurance companies are rated A+ (Superior) by A.M. Best Company.

For more information, visit our website at www.hcc.com.

Contact: Barney White, HCC Vice President of Investor Relations

Telephone: (713) 744-3719

Forward-looking statements contained in this press release are made under safe harbor provisions of the Private Securities Litigation Reform Act of 1995 and involve a number of risks and uncertainties. The types of risks and uncertainties which may affect the Company are set forth in its periodic reports filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission.

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