

# RECENT BUSINESS LAW CASES OUT OF WISCONSIN & DELAWARE

November 16, 2016

Nathan J. Neuberger 414-298-8100 nneuberger@reinhartlaw.com

#### Reinhart Boerner Van Deuren s.c.

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**Nathan J. Neuberger** is a shareholder in Reinhart's Corporate Law Practice and a member of the firm's Private Equity, Venture Capital and Corporate Finance group. Nate works with clients to facilitate a wide range of corporate sale and acquisition transactions including leveraged buyouts, strategic mergers and acquisitions, and recapitalizations.

Nate represents a range of private equity sponsors located in Illinois, Wisconsin and other states, and specializes in middle-market deals with transaction values between \$10 and \$250 million. In addition, he works closely with clients on a variety of other business matters including venture capital investments, startups and capital raises, corporate governance issues, and senior and mezzanine finance.

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# **Webinar Housekeeping**

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Throughout the webinar, type your questions using the "QUESTIONS" section in the webinar panel. We will answer as many questions as possible during our Q & A session at the end of the presentation.

#### Information

This webinar provides general information about legal issues. It should not be construed as legal advice or a legal opinion. Attendees should seek legal counsel concerning specific factual situations confronting them.

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Minerals Development v. Hunton & Williams, LLP Court of Appeals of Wisconsin, February 26, 2015

What is Hydraulic Fracturing ("Fracking")?

# What is Hydraulic Fracturing ("Fracking")?

• Well stimulation technique

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# What is Hydraulic Fracturing ("Fracking")?

- Well stimulation technique
- New access to fossil fuels

# What is Hydraulic Fracturing ("Fracking")?

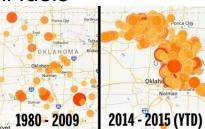
- Well stimulation technique
- New access to fossil fuels
- Shales

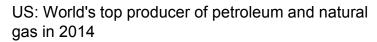
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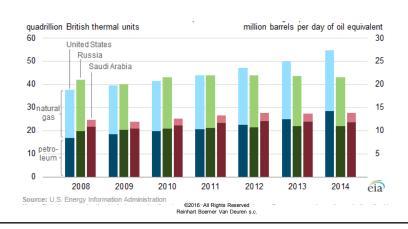
# What is Hydraulic Fracturing ("Fracking")?

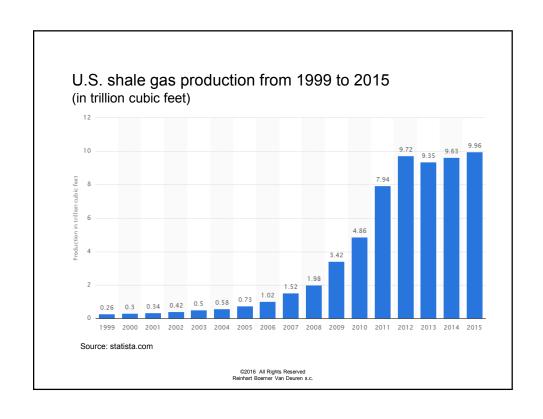
- Well stimulation technique
- New access to fossil fuels
- Shales
- Controversial

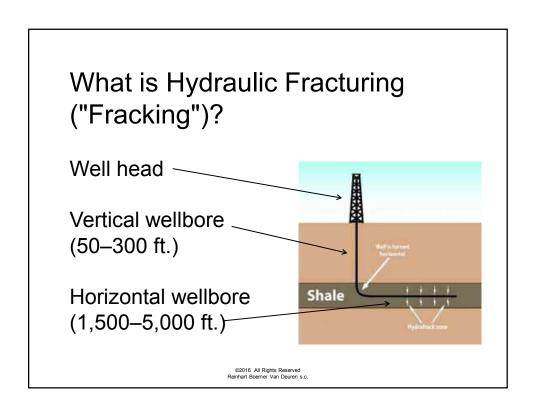


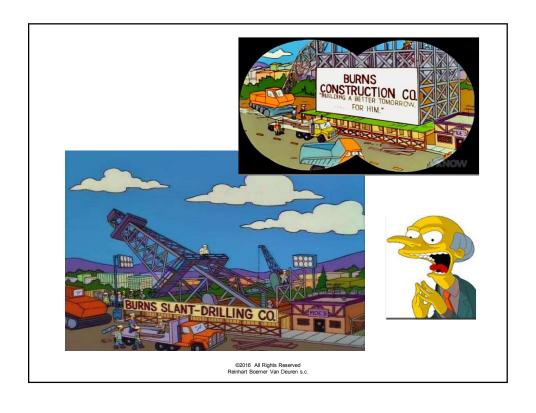


"....directly attributed to its success at exploiting tight oil formations and shale gas..."



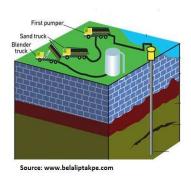






# Fracturing fluid pumped into well bore at high pressure

Water (90%) Sand (9.5%) Chemical additives (0.5%)





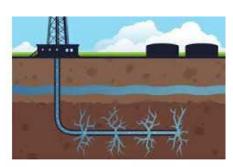
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## Sand

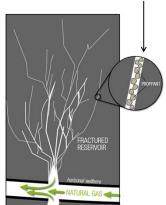
• High-purity quartz sand; from sandstone

Crush resistant; very round

Western Wisconsin sand exhibits ideal characteristics



Source: www7.nau.edu



Typically sand

Source: igs.indiana.edu

# Wisconsin far and away leading producer of frack sand in 2014 Nearly 50% of U.S. production in 2014

	Preliminary frac sand production	Percentage share of estimated U.S. frac sand production
State	estimates for 2014 (rounded to	(rounded to nearest whole
	nearest 10 <sup>6</sup> metric tons)*	percent)**
Wisconsin	24	44
Illinois	8	15
Texas	8	15
Minnesota	5	9
Arkansas	2	4
Iowa	2	4
Nebraska	2	4
Arizona	1	2
Michigan	1	2
Missouri	1	2
Total	54	101





Source: rockproducts.com

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But expansion has slowed as crude oil prices have declined

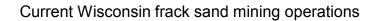
# **LEADER-TELEGRAM**

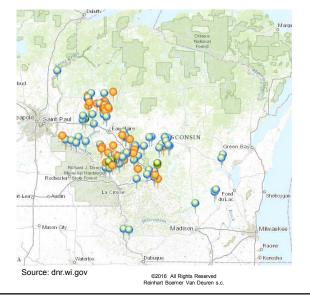
Serving Eau Claire, Wisconsin, and surrounding communities

# Silent sandbox: Once booming frac sand industry continues major downturn

A dramatic downturn in the sand mining sector continues into spring, when in recent years business would be loud and booming at west-central Wisconsin mining operations

posted May 8, 2016 12:00 a.m. (CDT)





# 84 active facilities:

- Mines
- Processing
- Loading

Minerals Development v. Hunton & Williams, LLP Court of Appeals of Wisconsin, February 26, 2015

• Wildcat owned a 300-acre frac sand mine in Monroe County (near Tomah)

Wildcat (mine)

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- Minerals Development Company ("MDC") contracted with Wildcat to purchase "Ottawa White" frac sand

Wildcat (mine)



MDC

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Minerals Development v. Hunton & Williams, LLP Court of Appeals of Wisconsin, February 26, 2015

- Wildcat owned a 300-acre frac sand mine in Monroe County (near Tomah)
- Minerals Development Company ("MDC") contracted with Wildcat to purchase "Ottawa White" frac sand
  - □ Contract restricted Wildcat's ability to contract with other buyers

Wildcat (mine)



MDC

- Wildcat owned a 300-acre frac sand mine in Monroe County (near Tomah)
- Minerals Development Company ("MDC") contracted with Wildcat to purchase "Ottawa White" frac sand
- MDC enters into Exclusive Supply Agreement with Superior Silica Sands in 2009



Wildcat (mine)

MDC

Superior Silica

Oil and gas

industry

Minerals Development v. Hunton & Williams, LLP Court of Appeals of Wisconsin, February 26, 2015

### **Exclusive Supply Agreement:**

 Superior Silica must purchase its "requirements" for Ottawa White from MDC



### **Exclusive Supply Agreement:**

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- Super Silica: \$4 million deposit for 530,000 tons of sand

Wildcat (mine)

MDC

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Oil and gas industry

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Minerals Development v. Hunton & Williams, LLP Court of Appeals of Wisconsin, February 26, 2015

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- Termination provisions—numerous outs

MDC
Superior
Silica

Oil and gas industry

Wildcat (mine)

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Wildcat (mine)



MDC



Superior Silica



Oil and gas industry

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- Superior Silica demands refund of \$3.7 million of deposit

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MDC



Superior Silica



Oil and gas industry

 Superior Silica represented by Hunton & Williams LLP

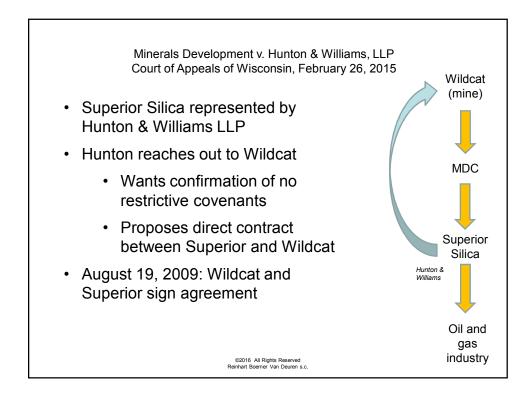


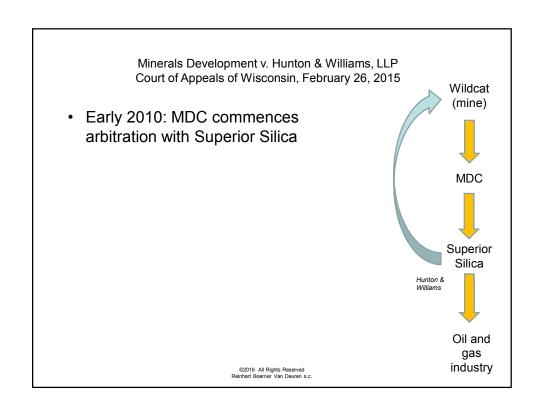
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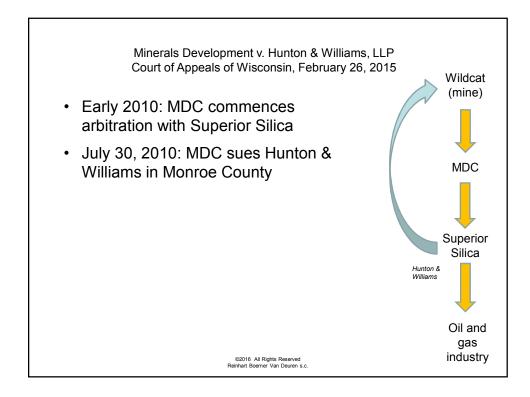
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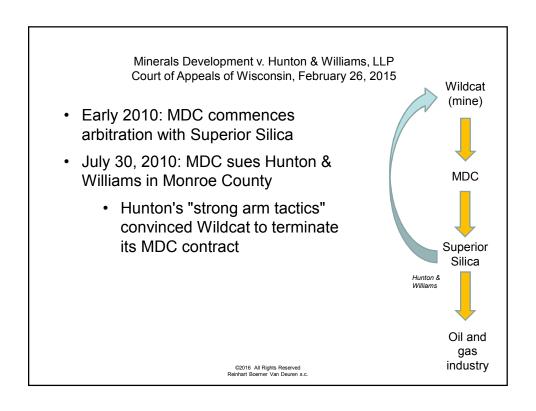
- Superior Silica represented by Hunton & Williams LLP
- · Hunton reaches out to Wildcat
  - Wants confirmation of no restrictive covenants
  - Proposes direct contract between Superior and Wildcat

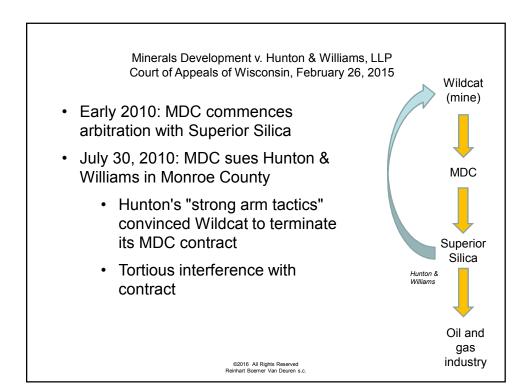


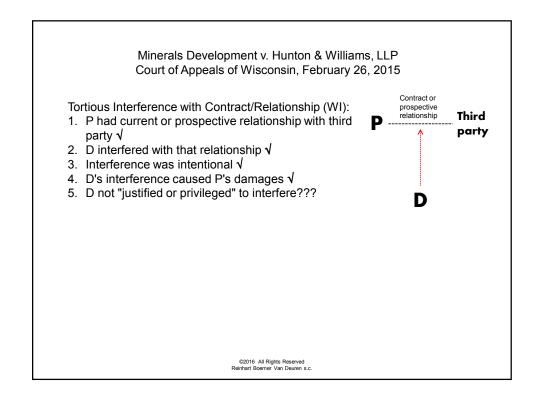


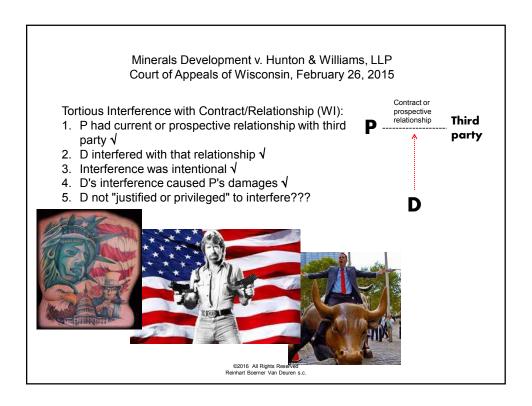


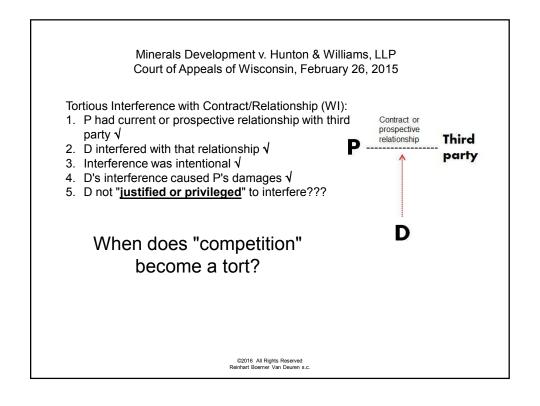




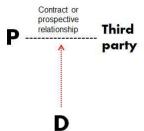








- When are you not "justified or privileged" to interfere?
- Depends on whether P already has a contract in place with third party

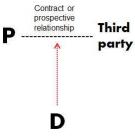


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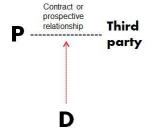
If P does not have a contract with the third party:

• D has the privilege to interfere with the relationship in connection with competition



If P does not have a contract with the third party:

- D has the privilege to interfere with the relationship in connection with competition
- · However, privilege to compete is not absolute
  - · "Independently tortious or wrongful"
  - Breach of fiduciary duty
  - · Misuse of confidential information
  - Fraud
  - Misrepresentation
  - Intimidation
  - Malicious intent
  - Bad faith

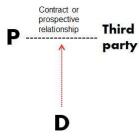


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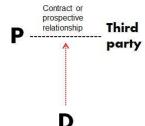
If a contract is in place between P and third party:

· "Competition" is not privileged



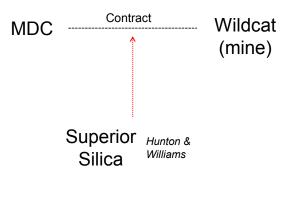
If a contract is in place between P and third party:

- · "Competition" is not privileged
- D can interfere with P's contract only in very limited circumstances
  - · Protecting proprietary information
  - Protecting a legal right
  - · Exercising a right under a contract
  - · Stating "truthful" facts
  - · Good faith belief in right to interfere

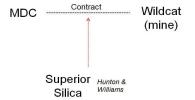


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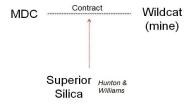
- · October 2010: Arbitration is settled
  - Superior to pay MDC \$500,000
  - MDC to release all claims with prejudice, except claim against Hunton & Williams



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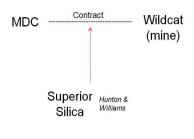
- · October 2010: Arbitration is settled
  - Superior to pay MDC \$500,000
  - MDC to release all claims with prejudice, except claim against Hunton & Williams
- · Superior pays the cash
- MDC does not release claims against Superior → adds to claims in litigation



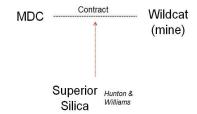
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Minerals Development v. Hunton & Williams, LLP Court of Appeals of Wisconsin, February 26, 2015

 June 2012: Hunton motions for sanctions



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- Jan 2013: State court dismisses MDC's claims with prejudice



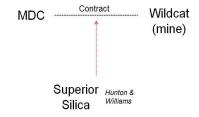
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Minerals Development v. Hunton & Williams, LLP Court of Appeals of Wisconsin, February 26, 2015

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- August 2013: Court awards Superior sanctions against MDC and its attorneys



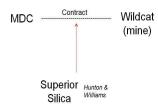
- June 2012: Superior motions for sanctions
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- · MDC appeals



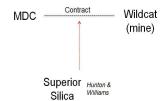
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Minerals Development v. Hunton & Williams, LLP Court of Appeals of Wisconsin, February 26, 2015

 Rationale for dismissing Hunton: Hunton & Williams had "qualified immunity"



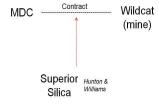
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- Qualified immunity for attorneys (WI): Attorneys not liable to third parties



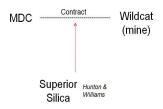
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  - Act within scope of A/C relationship



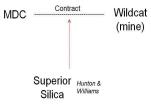
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  - Act within scope of A/C relationship
  - · Exceptions:
    - o Fraudulent and malicious acts
    - Induce client to commit unlawful act



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  - Act within scope of A/C relationship
  - · Exceptions:
    - o Fraudulent and malicious acts
    - Induce client to commit unlawful act
  - Inducing client to breach contract or fiduciary duty is protected



#### Rationale for sanctions:

Wisconsin Statutes section 802.05: By filing a paper with the court, an attorney is certifying:

- No improper purpose (harass; needlessly increase cost of litigation)
- · Claims are warranted by law
- Alleged facts have support

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- · Claims are warranted by law
- Alleged facts have support

If violated  $\rightarrow$  court may impose sanctions "upon the attorneys, law firms, or parties..." (Wisconsin Statutes section 802.05(3))

- o Directives of a nonmonetary nature
- o Penalty to the court
- o Reasonable attorneys' fees and other expenses

### Improper purposes:

Ratchet up the pressure on Superior to settle arbitration

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- Kept the \$500,000 settlement while continuing the litigation

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- Ratchet up the pressure on Superior to settle arbitration
- Kept the \$500,000 settlement while continuing the litigation
- · Should have known Hunton had immunity

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#### Improper purposes:

- Ratchet up the pressure on Superior to settle arbitration
- Kept the \$500,000 settlement while continuing the litigation
- · Should have known Hunton had immunity
- Needlessly increased the costs of litigation: failed to "have the good sense to pull the plug" after learning of defects in claims

 Prairie Capital: Chicago middle market private equity group

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## Prairie Capital Del. Chancery Ct. 2015

- Prairie Capital: Chicago middle market private equity group
- Portfolio company: Double E Company
  - Accessories for web process manufacturing









• 2011: Auction

- 2011: Auction
- Feb 2012: Exclusive with Incline Equity Partners

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## Prairie Capital Del. Chancery Ct. 2015

- 2011: Auction
- Feb 2012: Exclusive with Incline Equity Partners
  - \$27 million nonbinding bid

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  - Contingent on monthly sales goals

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### Prairie Capital Del. Chancery Ct. 2015

- 2011: Auction
- Feb 2012: Exclusive with Incline Equity Partners
  - \$27 million nonbinding bid
  - Contingent on monthly sales goals
- Target March 2012 for closing

• March 2012: Incline might walk

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## Prairie Capital Del. Chancery Ct. 2015

- March 2012: Incline might walk
- March 2012 target sales = \$3.2 million

- March 2012: Incline might walk
- March 2012 target sales = \$3.2 million
  - March 15 sales numbers = \$0.5 million

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#### Prairie Capital Del. Chancery Ct. 2015

- March 2012: Incline might walk
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  - March 15 sales numbers = \$0.5 million



- March 19 = \$1.1 million



- March 2012: Incline might walk
- March 2012 target sales = \$3.2 million
  - March 15 sales numbers = \$0.5 million <sup>20</sup>

- March 19 = \$1.1 million



– March 23 = \$1.5 million



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#### Prairie Capital Del. Chancery Ct. 2015

- March 2012: Incline might walk
- March 2012 target sales = \$3.2 million
  - March 15 sales numbers = \$0.5 million



- March 19 = \$1.1 million
- March 23 = \$1.5 million
- April 2: Prairie informs Incline that March sales goals were met (\$3.2 million)

- March 2012: Incline might walk
- March 2012 target sales = \$3.2 million
  - March 15 sales numbers = \$0.5 million <sup>60</sup>
  - March 19 = \$1.1 million
  - March 23 = \$1.5 million
- April 2: Prairie informs Incline that March sales goals were met (\$3.2 million)
- April 4: Transaction closes

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#### Prairie Capital Del. Chancery Ct. 2015

- June 2013: Incline asserts claims
  - \$650,000 of false shipments

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- Sep 2014: Delaware Chancery Court
  - Indemnification claims under SPA

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#### Prairie Capital Del. Chancery Ct. 2015

- June 2013: Incline asserts claims
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- Sep 2014: Delaware Chancery Court
  - Indemnification claims under SPA
  - Fraud claims
    - Representations in SPA
    - Extra-contractual statements

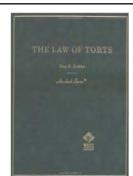
- June 2013: Incline asserts claims
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- Sep 2014: Delaware Chancery Court
  - Indemnification claims under SPA
  - Fraud claims
    - · Representations in SPA
    - · Extra-contractual statements
- What benefit by proving fraud?

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### Prairie Capital Del. Chancery Ct. 2015

#### Fraud:

- (i) a false representation,
- (ii) the defendant's knowledge of or belief in its falsity or the defendant's reckless indifference to its truth.
- (iii) the defendant's intention to induce action based on the representation,
- (iv) reasonable reliance by the plaintiff on the representation, and
- (v) causally related damages.



- Two types of "representations"
  - Express representations in SPA:

Section 4.6. <u>Financial Statements</u>. The Seller represents and warrants to the Purchaser that the Seller's financial statements as of December 31, 2015 fairly present, in all material respects, the financial condition and results of operations of the Seller as of such date and for the 12-month period then ended.

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#### Prairie Capital Del. Chancery Ct. 2015

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- Extra-contractual representations
  - · Verbal statements and written materials
    - Revenue recognition policies
    - March 2012 revenue goal
    - Financial statements reflecting incorrect March 2012 sales

Court: Purchase Agreement precludes reliance on extra-contractual reps → no fraud claim

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### Prairie Capital Del. Chancery Ct. 2015

Court: Purchase Agreement precludes reliance on extra-contractual reps → no fraud claim

- "Exclusive representations" clause +

5.6. No Other Representations. The Buyer agrees that except for the representations and warranties expressly set forth in this Agreement, the Buyer disclaims reliance on any representations or warranties, express or implied, by or on behalf of any Company Party or their respective representatives.

# Court: Purchase Agreement precludes reliance on extra-contractual reps → no fraud claim

#### - "Exclusive representations" clause +

5.6. No Other Representations. The Buyer agrees that except for the representations and warranties expressly set forth in this Agreement, the Buyer disclaims reliance on any representations or warranties, express or implied, by or on behalf of any Company Party or their respective representatives.

#### - Standard "integration clause"

9.3. <u>Entire Agreement</u>. This Agreement (including the exhibits and Schedules attached hereto) together with the Ancillary Agreements constitute the entire understanding and agreement of the parties hereto with respect to the transactions contemplated by this Agreement and the Ancillary Agreement and supersede any other agreements, whether written or oral, that

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### Prairie Capital Del. Chancery Ct. 2015

#### **KEY POINT:**

#### "Exclusive representations" clause

5.6. No Other Representations. The Buyer agrees that except for the representations and warranties expressly set forth in this Agreement, the Buyer disclaims reliance on any representations or warranties, express or implied, by or on behalf of any Company Party or their respective representatives.

# Must be a statement from the perspective of the buyer

# FdG Logistics Del. Chancery Ct. Feb 2016

Mason Wells as buyer

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# FdG Logistics Del. Chancery Ct. Feb 2016

- Mason Wells as buyer
- Disclaimer given by seller

### FdG Logistics Del. Chancery Ct. Feb 2016

- Mason Wells as buyer
- Disclaimer given by seller
- Fraud claim based on extra-contractual representations allowed

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## FdG Logistics Del. Chancery Ct. Feb 2016

- · Mason Wells as buyer
- Disclaimer given by seller
- Fraud claim based on extra-contractual representations allowed
- \$1 million deductible/\$20 million cap

#### Prairie Capital - FdG Logistics

### Takeaways:

Disclaimer by buyer

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#### Prairie Capital - FdG Logistics

### Takeaways:

- Disclaimer by buyer
- No magic words
  - Include non-"reliance"

#### Prairie Capital - FdG Logistics

### Takeaways:

- Disclaimer by buyer
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  - Include non-"reliance"
- Tie in data room, CIMs, etc.

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#### Prairie Capital - FdG Logistics

### Takeaways:

- · Disclaimer by buyer
- No magic words
  - Include non-"reliance"
- Tie in data room, CIMs, etc.
- Fraud is broad ("equitable" fraud)

#### Prairie Capital - FdG Logistics

"Fraud" means an actual and intentional fraud with respect to the making of a representation or warranty set forth in Section 3 or Section 4 (as applicable), provided, that, with respect to representations and warranties set forth in Section 3, such actual and intentional fraud shall only be deemed to exist if any of the individuals named in the definition of "Knowledge" below had actual knowledge (as opposed to imputed or constructive knowledge) that such representation or warranty set forth in Section 3, as qualified by the Disclosure Schedule, was actually breached when made, with the express intention that Buyer rely thereon to its detriment.

Fraud is broad ("equitable" fraud)

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#### Prairie Capital - FdG Logistics

#### Takeaways:

- Disclaimer by buyer
- No magic words
  - Include non-"reliance"
- Tie in data room, CIMs, etc.
- Fraud is broad ("equitable" fraud)
- Not limited to M&A?



#### SIGA Technologies Del. Supreme Ct. Dec. 2015

Orthopoxviruses (smallpox)



- Orthopoxviruses (smallpox)
- 20-60% mortality rate



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#### SIGA Technologies Del. Supreme Ct. Dec. 2015

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#### SIGA Technologies Del. Supreme Ct. Dec. 2015

- Orthopoxviruses (smallpox)
- 20-60% mortality rate
- 300–500 million deaths during 20th Century
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- Biological warfare



#### SIGA:

- Tecovirimat—antiviral drug

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#### SIGA Technologies Del. Supreme Ct. Dec. 2015

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#### SIGA Technologies Del. Supreme Ct. Dec. 2015

#### SIGA:

- Tecovirimat—antiviral drug
- Prevents virus leaving cell
- Strategic Stockpile—Project BioShield Act of 2004
- SIGA's 2011 contract
  - 2 million courses to Strategic Stockpile
  - \$463 million
  - · Additional options

- 2004: SIGA acquires ST-246 (Tecovirimat)

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#### SIGA Technologies Del. Supreme Ct. Dec. 2015

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- 2005: SIGA has no money; lacks expertise

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- 2005: SIGA has no money; lacks expertise
- Jan 2006: Non-Binding Term Sheet with PharmAthene
  - Pharm pays \$6 million license fee to SIGA
  - Additional milestone payment obligations (\$10 million)
  - Pharm pays 8–12% royalty on sales and 50% bonus on excess margins to US Government

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SIGA Technologies Del. Supreme Ct. Dec. 2015

March 2006: SIGA and PharmAthene explore merger

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### SIGA Technologies Del. Supreme Ct. Dec. 2015

- March 2006: SIGA and PharmAthene explore merger
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"Upon any termination of the Merger Term Sheet . . . , termination of the Definitive Agreement relating to the Merger, or if a Definitive Agreement is not executed . . . , SIGA and PharmAthene will negotiate in good faith with the intention of executing a definitive License Agreement in accordance with the terms set forth in the [Non-Binding Term Sheet] . . . "

Things start to look up for SIGA:

- March 2006: \$5 million grant from NIAID

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Things start to look up for SIGA:

- March 2006: \$5 million grant from NIAID
- July 2006: First successful human clinical trials
- Sep 2006: Positive feedback from CDC
- SIGA—internal \$3–\$5 billion valuation

#### Chief Scientific Officer e-mail:

"With [these new grants] we could have gone all the way ourselves.

Instead we got sold into slave labor and if anything the [PharmAthene] gang will drag us down"

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Oct 2006: SIGA's board terminates merger discussions with PharmAthene

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- Dec 2006: PharmAthene sues

- "Preliminary Agreement"

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#### SIGA Technologies Del. Supreme Ct. Dec. 2015

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- Delaware Supreme Court → "Expectation Damages"

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#### SIGA Technologies Del. Supreme Ct. Dec. 2015

- "Preliminary Agreement"
- Typically → "Reliance Damages"
- Delaware Supreme Court → "Expectation Damages"
- \$113 million damages award

- Agreements to "negotiate in good faith"

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#### SIGA Technologies Del. Supreme Ct. Dec. 2015

- Agreements to "negotiate in good faith"
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#### SIGA Technologies Del. Supreme Ct. Dec. 2015

- Agreements to "negotiate in good faith"
- Delaware "expectation damages" outlier
- Binding agreement vs. nonbinding agreement
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- Avoid "willful" behavior

#### Postlude:

- Sep 2014: SIGA files Chapter 11 Bankruptcy

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- \$104 million of cash as of March 31, 2016

### Questions?



### **THANK YOU!**

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