



For more information contact:
Paul Broughton
Director, Marketing
Markel Corporation
804-527-7618
pbroughton@markelcorp.com

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Markel Corporation appoints Thomas K. Smith as Chief Marketing Officer

Richmond, VA, July 16, 2014 — Markel Corporation (NYSE – MKL) has appointed Thomas K. “Smitty” Smith to the newly created position of Chief Marketing Officer. Smith has 30 years of insurance industry experience and joined Markel in 2007. In his new role, he is responsible for business development, branding, managing strategic relationships, creating digital assets, and corporate advertising/marketing activities. The appointment was effective July 1, 2014.

“Smitty is a uniquely talented and charismatic marketing executive with a great reputation in the insurance industry. Having been a broker at various times in his career, he has keen insight into how producers view Markel, and his influence is felt throughout the organization. His many contributions to our growth and development, as well as his ability to connect with industry leaders, make him the natural choice for this high-profile position,” commented Mike Crowley, President and Co-Chief Operating Officer.

Smith will report to Crowley and continue working at Markel’s corporate headquarters in Richmond, VA.

About Markel Corporation

Markel Corporation is a diverse financial holding company serving a variety of niche markets. The Company’s principal business markets and underwrites specialty insurance products. In each of the Company’s businesses, it seeks to provide quality products and excellent customer service so that it can be a market leader. The financial goals of the Company are to earn consistent underwriting and operating profits and superior investment returns to build shareholder value. Visit Markel Corporation on the web at markelcorp.com.

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