

0879

**STATEMENT UNDER OATH OF PRINCIPAL EXECUTIVE OFFICER  
REGARDING FACTS AND CIRCUMSTANCES RELATING TO  
EXCHANGE ACT FILINGS**

I, William R. Berkley, Chairman of the Board and Chief Executive Officer of W. R. Berkley Corporation (the "Company"), state and attest that:

1. To the best of my knowledge, based upon a review of the covered reports of the Company, and, except as corrected or supplemented in a subsequent covered report:

- No covered report contained an untrue statement of material fact as of the end of the period covered by such report (or in the case of a report on Form 8-K or definitive proxy materials, as of the date on which it was filed); and
- No covered report omitted to state a material fact necessary to make the statements in the covered report, in light of the circumstances under which they were made, not misleading as of the end of the period covered by such report (or in the case of a report on Form 8-K or definitive proxy materials, as of the date on which it was filed).

2. I have reviewed the contents of this statement with the Company's audit committee.

3. In this statement under oath, each of the following, if filed on or before the date of this statement, is a "covered report":

- Annual Report on Form 10-K for the fiscal year ended December 31, 2001 of the Company;
- All reports on Form 10-Q, all reports filed on Form 8-K and all definitive proxy materials of the Company filed with the Commission subsequent to the filing of the Form 10-K identified above; and
- Any amendments to any of the foregoing.

*William R. Berkley*  
William R. Berkley  
August 13, 2002

Subscribed and sworn to before me  
this 13<sup>th</sup> day of August 2002

RECEIVED  
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY  
AUG 13 2002



*Eileen K. Killian*  
Notary Public  
My Commission Expires: June 30, 2007