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## Summer Heat for Greek Organizations

The Summer of 2017 saw a number of Greek organizations and officers burned by the legal process:

- At Clemson, the university, a fraternity, and three brothers paid an unknown total to settle a hazing lawsuit filed by a pledge's parents. The pledge died during an early morning run.
- Criminal court proceedings are ongoing against 18 Penn State fraternity members who were arrested for manslaughter, assault, reckless endangerment, hazing, destroying evidence, and alcohol violations. A pledge fell down stairs after drinking. Reports are that the ambulance was not called for several hours. Penn State's president has argued in *USA Today* that self-governance by Greek organizations must end.
- In the SEC, a former Missouri pledge has sued his fraternity and three members for hazing. Allegations are that the fraternity and brothers knew of forced-drinking practices. In addition to the lawsuit, the fraternity has been kicked off campus for five years.

All of these are tragic events. But were they unexpected events? Did the organizations do enough to prevent harm? Did the brothers turn a blind eye to known risks? Those questions will consume the courts and these members' lives.

Greek risk management is not something forced on chapters by their universities. In fact, it is a Greek-led effort "which provides leadership in establishing and developing policies and practices for member organizations." (FIPG).

It's a Greek idea, to protect Greek organizations, and to protect Greek members, including you. Watch this space for risk management tips and follow us on twitter @uasrisk. This Fall semester, be part of the solution, not another defendant.

### For more information:

- Mayo, "[Clemson University to pay Tucker Hipps' family \\$250,000 as part of lawsuit settlement](#)," Independent Mail, August 17, 2017.
- "[List of 18 Defendants, Charges in Penn State Hazing Death](#)," US News, May 10, 2017.
- Barron, "[Penn State president: 'Self-governance' for fraternities and sororities needs to end](#)," USA Today, August 21, 2017.
- Bernhard, "[Former Mizzou freshman sues fraternity for alcohol hazing](#)", St. Louis Post-Dispatch, July 28, 2017.