

RECENT DEVELOPMENTS IN THE LAW OF GUARANTEES

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Guarantees are curious things. They are contracts in which the creditor provides consideration to the creditor in exchange for the creditor's promise to contract with a third party. It is assumed that when their relationship, the surety *wants* the creditor to contract with this third party on the terms proposed. Often, it is true that the law mandates no actual benefit to the surety is bound.

Because of this, the law has traditionally been rather protective of sureties. Numerous and equitable defences have been developed to protect them from the creditor's unconscionable liability that a guarantee may entail. The result has been a race in which creditors (through their counsel) devise increasing broad contractual language in an attempt to bind sureties to the principal's obligations, while sureties' defence lawyers work equally hard to find new defences.

This article considers three aspects of law of guarantees, with reference to three recent appellate decisions. It considers: (i) what a creditor needs to do to make a claim on a guarantee, (ii)

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plaintiff had contracted to build a trailer park for the corporate defendant, whose obligation to pay the plaintiff was guaranteed by the individual defendants.

After default by the corporate defendant, the plaintiff sued the sureties without making a separate prior demand for payment. The guarantee was payable on

