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## ACCEPTED MANUSCRIPT

#### Litigation Risk, Financial Distress, and the Use of Subsidiaries

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#### HIGHLIGHTS

- We study the relationship between litigation risk and subsidiary usage by U.S. firms.
- We also examine the difference between firms with low and high financial positions.
- We find that firms in general, tend to use more subsidiaries when exposed to high litigation risk.
- The effect is stronger in firms with low financial position, while it is less pronounced in firms with high financial position.

#### Abstract

Using a unique hand-collected dataset on corporate subsidiaries and lawsuits, we examine the relationship between litigation risk and subsidiary usage by large U.S. corporations. We find that firms, in general, tend to have a large number of subsidiaries when exposed to high litigation risk. We find that this tendency is strong in firms with relatively

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