

13TH ANNUAL VIRTUAL

# WORKERS' COMPENSATION AND SAFETY CONFERENCE



Wednesday, November 4, 2020 | 8:30am - 12:00pm

## SPEAKERS



### **Jay Shattuck**

*Executive Director of Employment Law Council, Illinois Chamber of Commerce*

Jay Shattuck formed Shattuck & Associates Consulting, Inc. in 1997 after twenty years of lobbying the Illinois General Assembly on behalf of various business organizations. He is a graduate of the University of Illinois with a Bachelors Degree in Political Science. Mr. Shattuck received his Certified Association Executive (CAE) in 1992 . Actively involved in a number of professional and civic organizations, he is a past president of the Illinois Society of Association Executives (ISAE), a past chairman of the Business and Industry for Economic Concerns (BIFEC) and past President of Project Safe Illinois. Mr. Shattuck served eight years as one of three Illinois business leaders appointed by the Governor to the Illinois Industrial Commission Advisory Council (1992-2000). No stranger to the Illinois legislative process, Mr. Shattuck previously held high-profile, senior level lobbying positions with the Associated Employers of Illinois, Central Illinois Public Service Co. (now Ameren) and the Independent Insurance Agents of Illinois. Mr. Shattuck's Springfield team was recognized by the American Society of Association Executives (ASAE) as a recipient of ASAE's prestigious Award of Excellence in Government Relations.

He is one of the state's most respected business lobbyist and association executives. His imprint is on many insurance, energy and employment law statutes and regulations considered by the General Assembly and Illinois state government for over thirty years.



## **Michael Brennan**

### ***Chairman, Illinois Workers' Compensation Commission***

Michael J. Brennan was appointed as Chairman of the Illinois Workers' Compensation Commission by Governor JB Pritzker on March 15, 2019. He previously served as a Public Member Commissioner since 2013.

He co-chaired a Rules Committee which resulted in the first comprehensive review and modification of the IWCC Rules of Practice in decades. Revised Rules were unanimously approved by the Legislature and Commission in October of 2016.

Mr. Brennan earned both his Bachelor of Arts and Juris Doctorate Degrees at De Paul University. He has practiced law in Illinois and has litigated numerous cases reported by the Illinois Appellate Court, the Illinois Supreme Court and the U.S. Supreme Court.

Mr. Brennan was engaged in private law practice from 1991 through 2013, with an emphasis on Workers' Compensation. He previously served as an Assistant Attorney General, from 1977 through 1991, where he prosecuted Civil Revenue and Criminal Medicaid Fraud cases, before becoming the Chief of the then Industrial Commission Division.

He was among the principal authors of the Larson's Illinois Workers' Compensation Handbook, and has published numerous articles dealing with Illinois Workers' Compensation issues for Quinlan's, Thomson West and Reuters. He has been qualified and testified as an expert on Workers' Compensation matters and has lectured extensively on the topic. He is a member of the Chicago Bar Association and Workers' Compensation Lawyers' Association. He has been elected by his peers as a Martindale-Hubbell Rated AV Preeminent Attorney for over Twenty Years, an Illinois Super Lawyer, an Illinois Leading Lawyer, named as among the Best Lawyers of America and among the Top Attorneys in Illinois by Chicago Magazine.



## **John W. Ruser, PhD**

### ***President and CEO, Workers Compensation Research Institute***

John W. Ruser, Ph.D. has 35 years of professional experience in conducting and managing economic research projects in labor and health economics, and in managing and interpreting economic surveys pertaining to employee pay, benefits and working conditions. He is currently President and CEO of the Workers

Compensation Research Institute (WCRI) in Cambridge, Massachusetts, an independent, not-for-profit research organization.

Dr. Ruser is responsible for executive leadership and strategic planning for the Institute, as well as oversight of the Institute's economic and statistical research program. Dr. Ruser previously held three executive positions in the Federal statistical system, serving as Associate Commissioner for Productivity and Technology and Assistant Commissioner for Safety, Health and Working Conditions, both at the US Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS), and Associate Director for Regional Economics at the US Department of Commerce, Bureau of Economic Analysis. In these three positions, he managed statistical programs that produced data on productivity, worker safety and health, and regional income, price and product accounts. Previously, Dr. Ruser was a researcher and Chief of the BLS office that conducted research on and improved measures of employee pay, benefits and working conditions in the US.

Dr. Ruser has written many academic peer-reviewed and non-technical articles and book chapters on employee compensation and occupational safety and health. He holds Ph.D. and M.A. degrees in economics from the University of Chicago and a B.A. in economics from Princeton University.



**Senator John F. Curran**  
*Illinois State Senator, 41<sup>st</sup> District*

Senator John F. Curran was sworn in to represent the 41<sup>st</sup> District in the Illinois Senate in July of 2017.

Prior to joining the General Assembly, Curran served as the Vice-Chairman of the DuPage County Board, and was a board member from 2008 to 2017. While sitting on the County Board, he led the implementation of cost-saving personnel policy reforms that are projected to save DuPage County \$28 million dollars over the next 20 years.

Following 19 years working as an Assistant State's Attorney in the Cook County State's Attorney's Office, Curran now works as an attorney at a private law firm in Oak Brook. He received his Juris Doctor Degree from Northern Illinois University College of Law and Bachelor of Science Degree from the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign.

Curran is the Minority Spokesman for the Senate Local Government Committee and also serves as a member on seven additional committees, including Education; Transportation; Energy and Public Utilities; Appropriations II; Government Accountability/Pensions; Committee of the Whole; and Assignments.

In addition to his legal work and public service, he sits on the Board of Directors for the Downers Grove Economic Development Corporation, whose mission is to help retain, expand and attract new businesses to the Village of Downers Grove. Curran, his wife, Sue, their four daughters and a niece live in Downers Grove.



**Scott A. Cole, M.D.**  
*Director of Medical Operations, Concentra for Illinois, Minnesota, & Wisconsin*

He graduated from the University of Michigan with degrees in Biomedical Sciences and Psychology, and received his MD degree from the University of Michigan in 1998.

Dr. Cole completed his residency at Swedish Covenant Hospital in Chicago in 2001 and is Board Certified in Family Medicine.

Dr. Cole began his journey with Concentra in Chicago in 2004 serving in various leadership roles. He is also a U.S. Civil Surgeon, Travel Health Specialist, NRCME and a former co-Chair of Concentra's Urgent Care Medical Expert Panel.

## **Shuaib Ahmed**

***Owner and President, Illinois and California, ASA Law Group, LLC***



Prior to forming ASA Law Group, LLC, Mr. Ahmed represented clients in personal injury and medical malpractice cases wherein he tried cases before the jury, the bench (judge), and at Arbitration. Thereafter, he served as an Assistant Attorney General for the State of Illinois defending various state departments in workers' compensation cases. He then spent numerous years engaged in private practice aggressively defending self-insured clients in workers' compensation cases in his capacity as a Partner.

Mr. Ahmed formed ASA Law Group, LLC, located in Oak Brook, Illinois, with a mission to partner with employers in not only the defense of workers compensation and civil cases, but also as legal consultants in advancing the employer's overall mission and corporate goals. Based upon client needs, Mr. Ahmed scaled the firm into California, forming ASA Law Group, Inc., which services employers in the entire state of California in the defense of workers compensation and civil cases. Mr. Ahmed has authored numerous articles for the Illinois State Bar Association, the Business Leader and is the author of the book *Get a Grip: An Employer's Manual on How to Get A Grip on a Workers' Compensation Case before it Spirals Out of Control*. Mr. Ahmed is also a faculty member for the Illinois Continuing Legal Education, the Illinois State Bar Association and he actively serves on the Illinois Chamber of Commerce Employment Committee and on the Business Advisory Board for the Illinois Chamber of Commerce.



## **Dr. Andrew Zelby, M.D., F.A.A.N.S**

***Director, Ovation Hand Institute***

Dr. Zelby is the Director of Ovation Hand Institute in Chicago. He is a board-certified neurosurgeon who has been performing neurosurgery for the past 26 years. He practices in the western suburbs of Chicago, and is also an assistant professor of neurosurgery in the Department of Neurosurgery at Rush University Medical Center. His practice covers all aspects of neurosurgery, with an emphasis on spine care along with carpal tunnel surgery at Ovation Hand Institute. He focuses on both conservative and surgical management of the conditions that he treats, and performs minimally invasive surgery for both carpal tunnel syndrome and spinal conditions, incorporating motion preservation procedures in his treatment of spinal conditions.

Dr. Zelby completed a neurosurgery residency at Loyola University Medical Center, followed by an orthopedic spine fellowship at Rush University Medical Center. After completing his residency and spine fellowship, Dr. Zelby was an assistant professor in the Departments of Neurosurgery and Orthopedic Surgery at Loyola prior to going into private practice.

Dr. Zelby has privileges at Elmhurst Hospital, Hinsdale Hospital, MacNeal Memorial Hospital, Gottlieb Memorial Hospital and Rush University Medical Center. He is a member of the American Association of Neurological Surgeons and the Congress of Neurosurgeons, and is a fellow of the American Association of Neurological Surgeons. He is diplomate of the American Board of Neurological Surgeons. Dr. Zelby is also an Ovation certified surgeon and has been extensively trained in the Ovation Technique.



## **Dave Rusch**

*Vice President of Business Development, Ovation Hand Institute*

Dave's role as Vice President of Business Development includes responsibility for communicating the value proposition of Ovation Hand Institute to all stakeholders, including occupational health, EHS, wellness, corporate benefits, risk management, and human resources.

Dave brings a diverse array of skills in business development, sales, and sales management with Fortune 100 Companies and entrepreneurial projects.

Dave's health care experience spans over 20 years, a majority of that time dedicated to the advancement of minimally-invasive surgical and diagnostic procedures with Ethicon Endo-Surgery, a division of Johnson & Johnson. His expertise span from clinical to health care economics. He also founded Cardio-Start, an emergency response company designed to train non-professional first responders in CPR, as well as increase the availability of public access defibrillators.

He holds a BBA Degree in Marketing from the University of Wisconsin at Whitewater, and resides in Whitefish Bay, WI.



## **Andrew J. Sheehan**

*Associate Attorney, MVP Law*

Andrew (AJ) Sheehan is an associate attorney practicing out of Springfield, Illinois. Since 2015, he has focused his practice on representing employers and insurers in workers' compensation matters throughout Illinois and Missouri. He also works with Insurers to protect their interests in Missouri Medical Fee Disputes.

Mr. Sheehan handles a wide range of issues, including complex cases involving permanent total disability, wage differential claims, and Medicare Set-Aside trusts, to less complicated cases involving settlement negotiations and pro se settlements. He is currently working out of the firm's new Springfield, Illinois, location where he specializes in Illinois-specific issues facing employers and insurers in the workers' compensation arena.

Mr. Sheehan regularly speaks at workers' compensation seminars and conferences about unique issues facing Illinois employers and the impacts of the changing landscape of the Illinois Workers' Compensation Act. While in law school, he served as a staff writer and casenote/comment editor of the SIU Law Journal where two of his articles were awarded "Best Casenote" and "Best Comment" and then were published in the SIU Law Journal's 2015 Spring and Fall issues.



## **Brent Neumeyer**

*Shareholder, MVP Law*

Brent Neumeyer, a shareholder in the firm's St. Louis office, has been with MVP Law since the beginning of his law career in 2008. He focuses his practice on workers' compensation defense in Missouri and Illinois.

Frequently arguing cases before the Missouri Labor and Industrial Relations Commission, the Illinois Workers' Compensation Commission, and the Court of Appeals, Mr. Neumeyer successfully defends employers and insurance carriers at all levels of trial and appellate courts in both Illinois and Missouri. He handles complex workers' compensation claims involving permanent total disability, wage differential claims, and death benefits. He actively works with

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employers and insurance carriers to understand the intricacies of their business to more effectively defend injury claims.

Mr. Neumeyer presents on workers' compensation issues at numerous educational seminars for attorneys, employers, insurance professionals, and nurse case managers. He is a Certified Claims Professional in workers' compensation through the Claims & Litigation Management Alliance. Mr. Neumeyer is the Chairman of the Bar Association of Metropolitan St. Louis Workers' Compensation Committee, and leads the Attorney Training Program for MVP Law.



### **Shawn Biery**

***Partner, Keefe Campbell Biery & Associates***

Shawn Biery received his JD from Thomas Jefferson School of Law in 2001. He was a founding member of Keefe, Campbell, Biery & Associates in 2003 after practicing in employment law and patent law firms prior. Shawn utilizes strategies similar to those he developed while an active duty member of the US Marines conducting desert warfare training. In addition to his work as a courtroom litigator, Shawn is also an adjunct law professor and regular speaker regarding workers' compensation and employment law issues.



### **John Campbell**

***Partner, Keefe Campbell Biery & Associates***

John Campbell received his JD from Chicago-Kent College of Law in 1999 and co-founded the Keefe, Campbell, Biery & Associates firm in 2003. John's area of concentration is in workers' compensation as well as employment and OSHA citation defense. John enjoys teaching as an adjunct professor of workers' compensation law as well. JD from Chicago-Kent College of Law in 1999 and co-founded the Keefe, Campbell, Biery & Associates firm in 2003. John's area of concentration is in workers' compensation as well as employment and OSHA citation defense. John enjoys teaching as an adjunct professor of workers' compensation law as well. In addition to his work as a courtroom litigator, John is also an adjunct law professor and regular speaker regarding workers' compensation and employment law issues.



### **Peter J. Stavropoulos**

***Partner, Brady Connolly & Masuda, P.C.***

Peter J. Stavropoulos is an experienced trial lawyer with over 10 years of experience, nearly all of which involves Illinois workers' compensation matters. Mr. Stavropoulos has substantial workers' compensation experience having practiced before the Illinois Workers' Compensation Commission, Illinois Circuit Court and Appellate Court. Mr. Stavropoulos has tried multiple cases before the Illinois Workers' Compensation Commission with great success. Aside from several zero awards, he has even secured an award that resulted in the petitioner owing the respondent a substantial amount of money after the application of a credit to the award. Mr. Stavropoulos is active member of the Workers' Compensation Lawyers Association and the Hellenic Bar Association.



## **Patrick Robinson**

*Vice President of Government Affairs, ODG by MCG*

Patrick Robinson is an AV/preeminent rated workers compensation attorney and a former director of the Louisiana Office of Workers' Compensation. He currently serves as the Vice President of Government Affairs for **ODG by MCG**, working with workers compensation regulators and stakeholders to improve outcomes for injured workers and employers through evidence-based medicine. A native of Louisiana, Patrick grew up in Shreveport and graduated from Southeastern Louisiana University in 1988. After serving as an infantry officer with the U.S. Army from 1987 to 1991, he received his juris doctorate from Louisiana State University in 1994. Patrick was a workers' compensation judge from 2011 to 2015, when he was appointed to lead Louisiana's OWC. Before coming to **ODG** in 2020, he worked as a regional director for the Workers' Compensation Research Institute, and as a partner with the law firm of Allen & Gooch. [www.mcg.com/odg/](http://www.mcg.com/odg/)



## **Matthew Horn**

*Partner, SmithAmundsen LLC*

As chair of the firm's OSHA Practice Group, Matthew oversees a team ensuring that clients in all industries are in compliance with the applicable OSHA regulations. When OSHA issues arise, Matthew and his team represent clients at all stages, from the initiation of an inspection through the litigation of citations. Matthew's goal with an OSHA inspection is to avoid the issuance of citations altogether, but when citations are issued, he has the experience, knowledge, and credibility needed to resolve them in the best way possible.

Matthew is a proven advocate for his clients, and his practical and competitive nature allows him to achieve success in and out of the courtroom, as well as positive outcomes for his clients at all stages in their legal matters. Additionally, his creative and thoughtful approach to business and legal issues, coupled with his accounting and construction background, allow him to serve as a trusted and effective adviser to his clients.

Matthew's successes do not end in serving the legal needs of his clients. He is an accomplished legal writer and speaker and is involved in many different legal and construction-related associations, including the Illinois Association of Defense Trial Counsel, the Defense Research Institute, the Underground Contractors Association, and the Illinois Road and Transportation Builders Association.