



**15th ANNUAL**

**WORKERS'  
COMPENSATION  
& SAFETY CONFERENCE**

**NOVEMBER 2, 2022 | DOUBLETREE HILTON | LISLE  
8:00 AM TO 3:30 PM**

## **15<sup>th</sup> Annual Workers' Compensation & Safety Conference**

**November 2, 2022 | 7:00 a.m.– 3:00 p.m.**

**Doubletree Hilton | 3003 Corporate West Drive | Lisle IL 60532**

- 7:00 a.m.–8:00 a.m.**      **Registration and Breakfast Networking – Expo is open**
- 8:00 a.m.–8:10 a.m.**      **Opening Remarks**
- **Aaron Harris**, Executive Director Employment Law Council, Illinois Chamber of Commerce
- 8:10 a.m.–9:00 a.m.**      **General Session – Shuaib Ahmed, ASA Law Group**  
**WCRI IL Study on Workers Comp Cost Drivers post COVID-pandemic**  
*We will dissect the WC cost drivers post pandemic based upon the WCRI IL Study on Workers Comp Cost Drivers post COVID-pandemic and what it means for employers in this new business landscape.*
- 9:00 a.m. – 9:50 a.m.**      **General Session – Jynnifer Cotharn and Kevin Deuschle, Inman Fitzgibbons, Ltd.**  
 Presented by NovoNordisk  
**Obesity, Aging, and Other Co-Morbidities: The Impact on Workers' Compensation Claims**  
*Obesity is a prevalent health risk worldwide, especially in the United States. Obese individuals can pose a higher risk for a workers' compensation claim to occur and obesity can adversely affect the outcome of the claim. It is often associated with increased time lost from work and higher costs among workers' compensation claimants sustaining injuries. Please join us for a discussion on how obesity along with aging and other co-morbidities impact the handling of workers' compensation claims. Discussion will include cost variables on the front end of claim handling. We will also discuss claims professional training strategies, post employee hire screening tips, employee health education and general claims management techniques to facilitate more efficient handling along every step of the way.*
- 9:50 a.m.–10:15 a.m.**      **Morning Break & Visit Exhibitors**
- 10:15 a.m. – 11:05 a.m.**      **First Series of Workshops**  
**Workshop #1: Ben Friederich, Abacus Research, Inc.**  
**Medical and Lifestyle Canvasses: The What, Why, When and Where**  
*This presentation delves into the realm of investigative canvassing of medical providers for current and prior medical care/activity as well as lifestyle canvassing looking for activities, hobbies, etc. all in hopes of shedding more light on claims and possible fraudulent activity*

**Workshop #2: Peter Stavropoulos and Jeffrey R. Gibellina, BCM Law, and Andrea Dolanski, CCMSI**

**Utilizing a Team Approach to Tackle Workers' Compensation Claims**

*Panel comprised of defense attorneys and a senior claims official will highlight how employers, the claims team and defense counsel can work together to contain claim costs, maintain positive contact with injured employees and prepare to defend future claims before they happen.*

**Workshop #3: Dr. Giridhar Burra, Illinois Bone & Joint Institute  
topic to be announced**

11:10 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

**Second Series of Workshops**

**Workshop #4: Dr. Douglas Craig, Atlantic OccuPsych**

**Occupational Medical Assessment and the Psychologist: A Primer to Mediate Risk**

*Presentation will highlight the ever-evolving roles a psychologist can play in the specialty practice of occupational psychological assessment. Discussion will focus on the three major stages in which occupational psychological assessment can be of resource to an employer to mediate risk: pre-employment psychological evaluations (PEPEs), Fitness for Duty Evaluations (FFDEs), Independent Medical Examinations (IMEs). Best practices, legal factors, and direction for resources will be provided.*

**Workshop #5: Shawn Biery, John Campbell, and Jim Egan, Keefe Campbell Biery & Assoc.  
Working Remotely and Workers Compensation Claims**

*The Illinois Chamber of Commerce along with attorneys from Keefe, Campbell, Biery & Associates will present a workshop regarding Working Remotely & Workers' Compensation Claims in the Covid Era. The workshop will provide an overview of some of the pitfalls and strategies with remote workers in this new Era as well as tips for utilizing various combined approaches to investigate claims, deal with subrogation issues, and tools to effectively manage employee expectations as well as determining when and where to implement protocols for claim management. As applicable, we will discuss HIPAA compliance, outside insurance issues, and managing injured workers remotely to effectively move toward closing claims and day-to-day injured worker management. The presentation is conducted in format where the audience is welcome to participate with questions to drive the discussion to areas of specific concern.*

**Workshop #6: Adam Cox and Lisa Azoory-Keller, Nyhan Bambrick Kinzie & Lowry, P.C.  
Permanent Restrictions, Now What?**

*Congratulations! Your claimant just received permanent restrictions from the treating doctor. Join Adam and Lisa as they help navigate you through defense options, cover the exposure scenarios presented, and explore vocational rehabilitation considerations.*

12:00 p.m. – 1:00 p.m.

**Visit Exhibitors & Networking Break with Luncheon**

1:00 – 1:30 p.m.

**Michael Brennan, Chairman, Illinois Workers' Compensation Commission**

1:30 p.m.–2:30 p.m.

**Roundtable Discussion with Q&A**

**Cannabis and its Impact on Workers Compensation**

**Moderator:** Aaron Harris, Exec Dir Employment Law Council, Illinois Chamber of Commerce

- **Panelist:** Peter Stavropoulos, BCM Law
- **Panelist:** Rep. Bob Morgan, Invited
- **Panelist:** Rep. Dan Ugaste, Invited

2:30 p.m.– 3:00 p.m.

**Drawings for Prizes & Closing Remarks**

3:00 pm

**Adjourn**