



Agenda – Tentative – Subject to Change

7:00 a.m.–8:30 a.m.

Registration and Breakfast Networking – Expo is open

8:30 a.m.–8:45 a.m.

Opening Remarks and Introductions

- **Lori Hiltabrand**, COO, Illinois Chamber of Commerce
- **Adam Cox**, Executive Director, Illinois Self-Insurers Association
- **Gina Breen**, President, Illinois Self-Insurers Association

8:45 a.m. – 9:40 a.m.

General Session – WCRI Advanced Practitioner vs Physician Study

Reflecting the shift in the current medical model.

9:40 a.m.–10:00 a.m.

Morning Break & Visit Exhibitors

10:00 a.m. – 10:55 a.m.

General Session - A Potpourri of Appellate Cases

Lisa Azoory-Keller and Adam Cox, Illinois Self Insurers Association

Adam J. Cox and Lisa Azoory-Keller discuss some of the Appellate Court cases issued over the past year, the issues and scenarios analyzed, and the impact going forward for workers' compensation claims."

11:00 a.m. – 11:50 a.m.

Breakout Sessions

Workshop #1: Impact of the Aging Workforce on the Workers' Comp Industry

John Campbell, Keefe, Campbell, Biery & Assoc.

Please join John Campbell of Keefe, Campbell, Biery & Associates for analysis and discussion of the impact our aging workforce has on the workers' compensation system. Statistical analysis and application to current case-law and claim handling will improve your claim analysis skill set.

Workshop #2: AI Powered Claims Handling – The Defense Perspective

Kevin Deuschle, IFMK Law

An examination of the use of AI in the workers' compensation claims process: This session will discuss the use of AI tools by employers, claims handlers, and defense attorneys and will address dangers, opportunities, and strategies to increase efficiency and reduce legal spend while avoiding strategic and ethical pitfalls.

Workshop #3: Vocational Rehabilitation and Self-Directed Job Search: Intelligent

Avoidance of Adverse Outcomes – Joseph Belmonte, C.R.C., Vocamotive, Inc.

exam Participants will gain an understanding of the theoretical and legal foundation upon which an evidence based, data-driven approach to job search is developed, implemented and documented.

The goal of the training is to assist claims and legal professionals to develop legally sound and objective criteria necessary to implementation of either protocol cost-effectively with an eye to control of critical cost parameters including TTD (maintenance), case open times, and to avoid the development of adverse fact patterns which complicate litigation and increase exposures.

This will include an overview of research in the field of vocational rehabilitation, review of Joint Commission on Administrative Rules (State of Illinois), Illinois Workers Compensation Case Law, as well as data from the Bureau of Labor Statistics, to identify practical recommendations for implementing client self-directed job search or vocational rehabilitation, and to compare and contrast costs associated with either protocol.

Workshop #4: From Blind Spot to Bullseye: Improving Credit Risk Management in Self-Insurance

Brian Weitzman, Marsh McLennan

This session will discuss the importance of managing credit risk inherent within the portfolio of self-insured employers and tackle topics such as appropriate collateral requirements, holistic credit analysis and ongoing monitoring of the portfolio, and other solutions designed to protect guaranty fund assets and reduce costs for businesses.

11:50 a.m. – 12:20 p.m.

Visit Exhibitors & Lunch Buffet

12:20 p.m. – 12:40 p.m.

Illinois Workers' Compensation Commission Update

Michael Brennan, Chairman, Illinois Workers' Compensation Commission

12:45 p.m. – 1:10 p.m.

Commissioner Wesley – Civility

1:10 p.m. – 1:50 p.m.

General Session – IME: Pearls and Pitfalls

Dr. Leon Benson, Illinois Bone & Joint Institute

Dr. Benson will do a deep dive into an IME from a physician perspective, talk about the role of MD, and provide examples of Pearls & Pitfalls that can occur during an IME. The comprehensive discussion will give the employer, legal counsel, and insurance personnel an inside look at the IME as seen by the physician.

1:50 p.m. -2:10 p.m.

Afternoon Break & Visit Exhibitors

2:10 p.m – 3:00 p.m.

General Session – 2025 Legislative Developments

Ramiro Hernandez, Illinois Chamber of Commerce

3:00 p.m. – 3:45 p.m.

Panel Discussion – Legislative panel

Moderator: Bill Lowry, Nyhan, Bambrick, Lowry, P.C.

Panelist: Rep. Dan Ugaste

Panelist: TBA

Panelist: TBA

Panelist: TBA

3:45 p.m.

Exhibitor Introductions, Drawings for Prizes & Closing Remarks for adjournment