



14TH ANNUAL

WORKERS' COMPENSATION & SAFETY CONFERENCE

October 19, 2021 | Hilton Lisle | 8:30 am to 3:00 pm



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.



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.



Rory McCann
Attorney, ASA Law Group

Rory McCann began his career as a workers compensation defense attorney in 2009 working for a large suburban defense firm until joining ASA Law Group in 2019. Early in his career, he distinguished himself as the primary associate assigned to draft appellate court briefs. He has successfully defended dozens of claims at all levels from arbitration to the Appellate Court. In addition, he has represented numerous Fortune 500 companies and served as the managing attorney on large accounts, working closely to pursue the twin goals of fast closure and cost-containment. Mr. McCann utilizes an intuitive approach to planning claim resolutions. He begins each new file by carefully considering all client's specific interests and clearly setting forth all options, considerations, and mapping out likely results for each approach. His experience has provided him a solid foundation to best predict future opponent moves and understanding the evidentiary needs of those who adjudicate our clients' claims. Mr. McCann obtained his undergraduate degree from the University of Illinois and law degree from John Marshall Law School. He enjoys playing guitar, reading, golf and spending time with his wife and three kids.



Jynnifer Cotharn
Partner, Inman & Fitzgibbons, Ltd.

Jynnifer Cotharn has been with the firm since 2007 and practices in the areas of workers' compensation defense and general liability. Her practice includes client consultation on reporting and investigating claims as well as advising on strategic measures to reduce risk and liability for employers and insurance carriers. She represents clients at the arbitration, Commission and Circuit Court levels. Jynnifer received her Juris Doctor from The Ohio State University Moritz College of Law.



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

Dr. An

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.

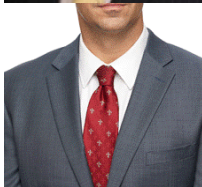
Mr. Stavropoulos has tried multiple cases before the Illinois Workers' Compensation Commission with

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



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.