

12th Annual Workers' Compensation & Safety Conference

October 8, 2019 | 7:30 a.m.– 3:00 p.m.

Sheraton Lisle | 3000 Warrenville Rd., Lisle, IL 60532

7:30 a.m.–8:30 a.m.

Registration and Breakfast Networking – Expo is open

8:30 a.m.–8:55 a.m.

Opening Remarks

- **Jay Shattuck**, Executive Director Employment Law Council, Illinois Chamber of Commerce
- **Michael Brennan**, Chairman, Illinois Workers' Compensation Commission

8:55 a.m.–9:45 a.m.

General Session – Medical and Recreational Marijuana in Illinois and the effect on WC Claims Handling

Shuaib Ahmed, ASA Law Group

Shuaib Ahmed will dissect the Medical Cannabis Act, discuss both medical and recreational marijuana in Illinois and the challenges facing Employers navigating Workers' Compensation claims.

9:45 a.m.–10:10 a.m.

Morning Break & Visit Exhibitors

10:10 a.m. – 11:05 a.m.

First Series of Workshops

Workshop #1: Mark Carter and Jynifer Cotharn, Inman & Fitzgibbons, Ltd.

Best Tools for Defense; Strategic Use of IMEs, Record Reviews, Utilization Reviews, Impairment Ratings

Effective claims management often requires different strategies at different points in the litigation process. Understanding the tools that are available to help protect the insured's interests is a critical part of claim handling. Should I get an IME? What are the benefits of obtaining a Utilization Review? How much weight is given to an impairment rating? In this seminar, we will address these questions along with four defense tools, their benefits and risks, and how each tool impacts cost and advancement of claims to closure.

**Workshop #2: Michael Teti, Digistream Investigations
Investigations in the Age of Geosocial Data**

The current growth of geosocial data is changing the face of risk management and investigations. Learn what geosocial data is, and exactly how this type of information is used to uncover fraud and investigate insurance claims of all kinds. Understand how to gain eye-opening insight into accidents, site-security, workplace harassment, and high exposure incidents by locating social media photographs, videos and posts at specific locations and times anywhere in the world. The session examines successful real life cases, fascinating trends in social media, privacy and legal issues, as well as preserving, authenticating and presenting cyber evidence in court. Attendees will work with an understanding of best practices and ethical requirements for a successful geosocial investigation and how to add this new information into their already wide range of skills.

**Workshop #3: Surbhi Saraswat Goyal and Charles Maring, Brady Connolly Masuda, P.C.
Defending Work Injuries . . . Before They Happen!**

In this workshop learn practical, low-cost strategies that employers can implement in-house to prepare for a work injury before it happens! Attorneys Surbhi Saraswat Goyal and Charles M. Maring, II reveal battle-tested strategies and helpful trial evidence that is beneficial in the defense of workers' compensation claims. These strategies can help Employers, Human Resource and Safety Personnel mitigate costs and protect the company's interests. Know your rights as an employer and turn standard practices into assets!

11:10 a.m. – 12:05 p.m.

Second Series of Workshops

Workshop #1: Brian Clay, MD, Illinois Bone & Joint Institute

Standardizing a Return to Work Protocol for Back Injuries in the Workplace

Attendees will understand the markers of when a patient can return to work duty with low back pain, what to avoid, standard practices, and improvements in the process. By following a

researched set protocol, return to work for low back injuries will be more efficient and economical. Attendees will also understand the insurance implications, cost saving, and improved return to work times for these patients by following a researched protocol.

Workshop #2: Shawn Biery, John Campbell and Bradley Smith, Keefe Campbell Biery & Associates

Impact and Implications of SB 1596 (Civil Action may be brought against Employer)

Join John Campbell and Shawn R. Biery from Keefe, Campbell, Biery & Associates for a break out session discussing the impact and implications of SB 1596, as well as brainstorming strategies on how employers can best prepare to protect themselves. These veteran workers compensation defense attorneys will also cover relevant recent case law updates to provide guidance which will be helpful for anyone who deals directly or peripherally with workers' compensation claims. Questions will be entertained throughout to drive the discussion toward specific avenues of interest from the audience.

**Workshop #3: Jeffrey Risch, Smith Amundsen, LLC
OSHA Obligations and Workers Compensation in Illinois**

In this presentation, led by Labor & Employment Attorney Jeffrey Risch, attendees will receive the latest in employer OSHA obligations related to work related injuries and claims. From reporting and recording requirements, to drug testing rights and disciplinary options when an employee is involved with a work related injury due to an unsafe act or rule violation, attendees will hear the very latest on what employers must do, can do, shouldn't do and can't do when it comes to OSHA and work related injuries.

12:05 p.m. – 12:30 p.m.

Visit Exhibitors & Networking Break

12:30 p.m.–1:30 p.m.

Luncheon with Keynote Speaker

The Intersection of Rx Opioids & Medical Marijuana

Mark Pew, Senior Vice President, Product Development & Marketing, Preferred Medical
Medical cannabis as a substitute for prescription opioids continues to grow in the public (and private) discourse on pain management. Is that a surprise? For citizens of Illinois it should not be since last year's introduction of the "Opioid Alternative Pilot Program (<http://www.dph.illinois.gov/topics-services/prevention-wellness/medical-cannabis/opioid-alternative-pilot-program>)." But Illinois is not alone in the connection as per the January 24, 2019 blogpost "Marijuana & Opioids" (<https://www.linkedin.com/pulse/marijuana-opioids-mark-rxprofessor-pew/>) that listed three other states with an explicit connection (Colorado will officially make it five total in August 2019) and another six states with an implicit connection. While this connection is mostly political and anecdotal (based on personal stories and experiences) there is a growing amount of science (clinical studies) to substantiate the premise. This session will discuss the evolution in thought, present the anecdote and evidence behind the connection, highlight the implications for workplaces, and talk about how a drug-for-drug substitution might not be the full answer.

1:30 p.m.–2:30 p.m.

Roundtable Discussion with Q&A

Moderator: Jay Shattuck, Exec Dir Employment Law Council, Illinois Chamber of Commerce

- **Panelist: Amy Bilton**, Nyhan Bambrick Kinzie & Lowry
- **Panelist: Dr. David Fletcher**, Safeworks Illinois
- **Panelist: Michael Brennan** – Chairman, Illinois Workers Comp Commission

Implementation of SB904 and discussion of billing and payment problems in the WC system

2:30 p.m.– 3:00 p.m.

Drawings for Prizes & Closing Remarks

3:00 pm

Adjourn