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20 YR ANNIVERSARY
workcompcentral
DWC 26th Annual Educational Conference

Day 1  February 11, 2019  Los Angeles

February 28, 2019  Oakland

9:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.  Registration

12:30 p.m. to 1:00 p.m.  Welcome/General Session

1:00 p.m. to 4:30 p.m.  Breakout Sessions

4:30 p.m. to 5:30 p.m.  Reception – No Host Bar

Continuing Education Unit (CEU) Credits are available at the registration counter

This conference is held in cooperation with the International Workers’ Compensation Foundation, Inc. (A non-profit organization)

Division of Workers’ Compensation

Serving the People of California Since 1911
# DWC 26th Annual Educational Conference

## Day 2

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Event</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>7:30 a.m. to 8:30 a.m.</td>
<td>Continental Breakfast</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8:30 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.</td>
<td>Breakout Sessions</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12:00 p.m. to 1:00 p.m.</td>
<td>Lunch - Presentation By Kid’s Change (Los Angeles)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1:15 p.m. to 3:30 p.m.</td>
<td>Breakout Sessions</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

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*Division of Workers’ Compensation*

*Serving the People of California Since 1911*
### Breakout Sessions

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Topic</th>
<th>Description</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Apportionment</td>
<td>An in-depth case law update focusing on apportionment problem areas including overlap, range of medical evidence, pertinent cases, and petitions to reopen.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DWC Update</td>
<td>Attendees will get a broad overview about the division’s upcoming regulations, forms, and processes as well as the status of recently adopted rules and regulations, many of which stem from the passage of SB 863.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Employment &amp; Insurance</td>
<td>PEOs, general/special employment, leased employees and rescission. How to deal with these current issues.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Formulary Focus</td>
<td>The Drug Formulary is now in its one-year anniversary and results in California can be compared with other states not in terms of prescribing patterns but also, medical costs and transition to other treatment options. The closed formulary was legislated to provide a consistent and healthy standard of care for all patients within the workers’ comp system and to mitigate the issues of the opioid epidemic. In addition, the CWCI’s October 2014 study found that adopting a mandatory formulary like Texas or Washington could reduce California workers’ comp pharmacy costs by $124 million to $420 million a year. We now have preliminary data and can tell you where we stand and if we are on track to meeting goals.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Getting Your Settlements Approved by the WCAB</td>
<td>Recommendations in preparing your settlement and related documents to include frequently asked questions by the judges as part of the approval process.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>#IKnowWhatYouDidLast Weekend: Discovery of Social Media Content in Workers’ Compensation Cases</td>
<td>Presenters will cover issues related to the discovery of social media content, including privacy and privilege. Also, the admissibility of social media content at trial.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Legal Ethics</td>
<td>This panel will cover what is important for workers’ compensation practitioners to be aware of under the Rules of Professional Conduct. The presentation will also include a discussion of Labor Code section 5813 and Business and Professions Codes relating to attorney conduct and case law interpreting the Rules of Professional Conduct.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Liens</td>
<td>The panel will look at various lien and lien-related issues: cost petitions under Section 5811, non-IBR petitions, handling a case under Section 4615, copy service liens; what declarations are required and what makes them valid.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Medical Treatment Utilization Schedule (MTUS) including Formulary</td>
<td>Learn about the latest updates and changes to the Medical Treatment Utilization Schedule including regulation changes and proposed regulation changes. Learn the latest on the MTUS Guidelines, Formulary and see a guided tour of some of the online tools that can assist with use of the MTUS.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Minimizing Lost Time: Return to Work</td>
<td>The amount of time injured workers remain away from work frequently determines the economic gravity of workplace accidents. It is not the accident’s severity nor the injured body part that always determines length of time off. It is how the injury is managed by patient, doctor, employer and claims administrator. Therefore, implementing effective return-to-work solutions requires coordination among those stakeholders. Drawing from years of industry leadership roles, the presenter will share practical strategies for defining key stakeholders’ roles and the interaction needed for a successful return-to-work environment.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Misconceptions in AMA Guides Rating</td>
<td>Various misconceptions regarding AMA Guides permanent disability rating will be discussed. These misconceptions result in rating issues that affect permanent disability indemnity. Issues discussed will include upper extremity strength impairment, proper rating of carpal tunnel syndrome, application of pain add-on, purpose of the Combined Values Chart, use of Effects of medication impairment, lower extremity gait impairment and LC 4664 apportionment.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Breakout Sessions</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Rating Spine Impairments</strong></td>
<td>DEU Supervisors will instruct on how to rate spine disability including choice of proper rating method, placement in proper DRE classification, mechanics of ROM method, and situations when both DRE and ROM methods are applicable. Rating of spinal cord injuries and use of Almaraz/Guzman alternative ratings will be addressed.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Recognizing &amp; Addressing Implicit Bias</strong></td>
<td>This session will address the role of all stakeholders in the system to identify and prevent bias including red flags to be on the lookout for. Potential bias in med-legal evaluations including a discussion of apportionment to risk factors will be explored.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Record Development &amp; Discovery</strong></td>
<td>When &amp; how do judges decide to develop the record or close discovery? How is due process balanced against due diligence? When does record development result in impermissible rescue? What can parties do to make sure the record is complete and accurate before setting a matter for trial? This panel will discuss the current law on record development and discovery, including the tools available to judges when discovery stalls, and offer tips and suggestions to help ensure you have a fully developed record.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>The View from the 9th Floor: Workers’ Compensation Appeals Board</strong></td>
<td>This always-popular session will cover petitions for reconsiderations, sanctions and other areas of recurrent problems and issues.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Top Litigation Tips</strong></td>
<td>Recent cases, such as Fitzpatrick, Maxham, Soun, Hikida and Rice, have dramatically changed the litigation landscape. Tips and best practices for successful development and presentation at trial of these various issues will be the focus of this panel of workers’ compensation judges, each bringing their own diverse perspective, experience and knowledge to this program.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Trending Topics in the Audit Unit</strong></td>
<td>The AU will provide an in-depth explanation of the audit process and the basics for measuring a claims administrator’s timely provision of workers’ compensation benefits. In addition, the Audit Unit will address some common question from the industry.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Utilization Review Rules, Process &amp; Investigations</strong></td>
<td>This session will highlight and discuss substantive changes under Senate Bill 1160 (2016) to the utilization review (UR) program and processes. It will present the “A through Z” of utilization review, beginning with the submission of a UR plan for approval, the application of the new rules in the context of the UR process and ending with UR investigations.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Where is the Market Headed?</strong></td>
<td>This panel looks at the workers’ compensation insurance market in California and the US with an overview of actuarial and economic trends (premium levels, rates, benefits distribution, types, costs and duration of claims, and expenses). Discussion includes How Workers’ Compensation System Promote Occupational Safety and Health and how WCI markets might/could/would adapt in an environment of universal health care coverage.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Why Do Claims Get Stuck &amp; What To Do About It?</strong></td>
<td>This discussion will review cases that have already gone “bad” and discuss practical approaches along with recommended management strategies to achieve cost-effective outcomes using a biopsychosocial functional restoration approach. Real-world examples demonstrating these approaches will be included.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Women in Law &amp; Business: Past, Present and Predicting the Future</strong></td>
<td>This panel looks at the challenges and issues faced by women in workplaces past as well as in today’s legal and business climate. How particular demands on women affect gender equality both historically and currently. The panel will look at the wage gap and how women have fared in terms of earning power, both past and present. It will also look at the practical effects of how these issues have affected productivity and relationships in work and home life, and the legal protections and pitfalls in today’s industry.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Workers’ Compensation Case Law Update I &amp; II</strong></td>
<td>This two-hour session will review the most important case decisions issued in 2018. Some of the cases discussed involve the continuing interpretation and implementation of the SB 863 workers’ compensation reforms.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Speakers’ Bio

Annalisa J. Becker has been with the Division of Workers’ Compensation for 37 years. She has been a Permanent Disability Evaluator with the Disability Evaluation Unit since 1988 and appointed to the position of Northern California Area Supervisor in 2004.

David Bellusci graduated from San Francisco State University with a BA and MA degrees. He began with Workers’ Compensation Insurance Rating Bureau in 1989 where he is a Senior Vice-President and Chief Actuary. He is a Fellow of the Casualty Actuarial Society and a Member of the American Academy of Actuaries.

Richard Brennen is a Workers’ Compensation Judge at the Santa Ana District Office since 2013. Before this, he was a workers’ compensation Senior Deputy City Attorney for the City of San Jose. He became certified specialist in Workers’ Compensation in 1999. Mr. Brennen received his JD degree from Thomas Jefferson School of Law and his BA degree from the University of California, Berkeley.

Terry Bogyo is an active researcher, speaker and commentator on workers’ compensation issues. Now retired, he was the Director of Corporate Planning and Development for WorkSafeBC. His responsibilities included environmental scanning, strategic planning and inter-jurisdictional comparisons. Terry says of himself: I am a student of workers’ compensation systems.

Kim E. Card is the Acting Chief Counsel of the Department of Industrial Relations, Office of the Director, Legal Unit (“OD Legal”). Ms. Card is a 1989 graduate of Stanford Law School. She was in private practice for more than 23 years, specializing in class actions, employment, and consumer protection cases, before joining DIR in 2014. Ms. Card has represented the DIR and its divisions in various litigation matters in recent years, including in Stevens v. Workers’ Comp. Appeals Board (2015) 241 Cal.App.4th 1074 and Ramirez v. Workers’ Comp. Appeals Bd. (2017) 10 Cal.App.5th 205 (as amicus curiae counsel)

Colleen Casey has a BA degree from the University California Berkeley and JD from Golden Gate University. Her career in workers’ compensation began in 1995 as a Workers’ Compensation Appeals Board Commissioner. In 2002, she entered private practice and returned to the state in 2004 as a Workers’ Compensation Judge in San Francisco. She was name Barrister of the year in 1989 by the San Francisco Bar Association.

Raymond F. Correio is a senior associate with the defense firm of Pearlman, Brown & Wax. Before joining the firm, Ray was a workers’ compensation judge for twelve years and was assigned to both the Santa Monica and marina Del rey District Offices. He was named defense attorney of the year by the Workers’ Compensation Section of the State Bar in 2013. In addition, is often an invited speaker at various workers’ compensation forums and seminars.

Anthony Corso is a Workers’ Compensation Judge at the San Francisco District Office since 2018. He began his workers’ compensation career representing employers at Mullen & Filippi’s San Francisco Office. In 2017, started representing injured workers in 2017 at the Law Office of Durard, McKenna & Borg for which he was named the California Lawyers Association’s Young Attorney of the Year. He attended San Diego State University before earning his law degree at Santa Clara University.

John Cortes has a BA and JD from the University of California, Davis. He started his legal career in private practice before beginning his workers’ compensation career with State Compensation Insurance Fund as a subrogation attorney from 2001 to 2012. He transferred to the DIR/DWC as an Industrial Relations Counsel in the Spring of 2012.

Paul DeWeese was appointed as a workers’ compensation judge in March 2009. Prior to attending law school, he worked as a legal assistant for an applicant’s attorney and as a claims adjuster for the long-departed Kemper Insurance. After passing the bar, spent several years working as a defense attorney. From 2004 to 2008 opened his own firm as a sole practitioner. He obtained a BA degree in Music from UCLA and earned his JD from Loyola Law School.

Michael Dworsky is an Economist at the RAND Corporation. His primary research interests are in disability policy, health economics, labor economics, and the economics of insurance. At RAND, he has specialized in empirical research on workers’ compensation policy and the labor market outcomes of permanently disabled workers. In recognition of his contributions to the empirical analysis of workers’ compensation and the employment of people with disabilities, Dr. Dworsky was elected to the national Academy of Social Insurance in 2018. He received his Ph.D. in economics from Stanford University.

Steven D. Feinberg, MD is a native of New York City and received his BA and MPH from UCLA, his MD from UC Irvine, and his MS in rehabilitation Medicine from the University of Washington. He is often used as an AME from his Palo Alto medical practice. He has received numerous professional awards, is the member of many medical societies and committees, and is the author or co-author of many publications.
Christina Fenimore CPCU. She has a BA and MPA from Cal State Northridge. She has worked at DWC for 2 years. She previously worked at the Department of Insurance for 5 years in insurance regulation and compliance for multiple lines of insurance specializing in workers’ compensation insurance. She also worked many years at State Fund for underwriting, marketing, and auditing roles. In May 2018 she was appointed Manager of the DWC Audit and Enforcement Unit.

Patricia Garcia is the Acting Secretary/Deputy Commissioner of the Workers’ Compensation Appeals Board. She received her BS degree from San Francisco State University and her JD from McGeorge School of Law and was admitted to the California State Bar in December of 1997. She joined the WCAB as a staff attorney in September 2005. Prior to her work at the WCAB, she practiced workers’ compensation law, representing both injured workers and employers.

Constantine Gean, MD is Board Certified in Occupational Medicine, is on voluntary faculty in the Department of Medicine at UC Irvine and is a Regional Medical Director for Liberty Mutual. He is the lead author of The Pocket Drug Guide and The Index of Prescription Drugs, is Chair of the ACOEM Council on Education and Academic Affairs and is a past president of the Western Occupational and Environmental Medicine Association (WOEMA).

Eugene Gogerman has been a judge at the San Francisco District Office since 2015. Prior to this, he practiced workers’ compensation law in the Bay Area. A two-time graduate of the University of San Francisco, he earned a BA in sport science and exercise physiology before attending law school. In addition, he spent many years as a semi-professional musician and has performed and recorded in a wide range of locales and genres.

Terri Ellen Gordon is a Workers’ Compensation Judge at the Oakland District Office. Her career in workers’ compensation began in 2005 with State Compensation Insurance Fund. She was a judge at the San Francisco District Office starting in 2012 before transferring to the Oakland District Office in 2018. A graduate of Arizona State University, she earned her law degree at Golden Gate University.

James Griffin is a Workers’ Compensation Judge with the Oakland District Office. He received his BA at the University of California, Berkeley and JD from the Santa Clara University School of Law.

William Gunn received his BA from California State University in Fresno and JD from San Joaquin College of Law. Admitted to the State Bar in 1991, he is the Presiding Judge of the Division’s Special Anti-Fraud Support Unit.

Nate Halprin is a Workers’ Compensation Judge with the Santa Ana District Office, appointed in 2018. Before taking the bench, Mr. Halprin served for two decades as Managing Partner at the Tobin Lucks law firm. He is a certified specialist in workers’ compensation, and is a member of the California, Colorado and Federal Bars. Mr. Halprin is a certified scuba and skydiving instructor. He obtained his undergraduate degree at UCLA, and his JD at Loyola University School of Law.

Yvonne Hauscarriague has a BA degree from the University of California, Santa Barbara and a JD from the University of San Francisco. After working in private practice as a civil litigation attorney, she began her workers’ compensation career with State Compensation Insurance Fund serving as a defense attorney from 2005 to 2011 and an assistant chief counsel from 2011 to 2013. She transferred to DWC as an Industrial Relations Counsel in late 2013.

Robert Hill is a Workers’ Compensation Judge at the Riverside District office since 2013. Before joining DWC, he worked as an applicant attorney at Rose, Klein & Marias and a defense attorney at the Law Offices of Parker & Irwin. He obtained his BA in International Relations from USC and his JD from Loyola University School of Law.

Simon Hovakimian is a Workers’ Compensation Judge at the Long Beach District Office. From 2011 to 2012 was an associate attorney at the Law Offices of McDermott & Clawson, LLP. From 2006 to 2011 worked as an attorney for the State Compensation Insurance Fund. Mr. Hovakimian received his JD at the Southwestern University School of Law and BA from the University of California Los Angeles.

Ilene Howard is the Civil Penalty Supervisor for the Audit Unit. A graduate of the University of California, Berkeley. She has 25 years of workers’ compensation experience. Her state career began at State Compensation Insurance Fund as a claims adjuster. She joined the Division of Workers’ Compensation in 1997 as a Workers’ Compensation Consult at the UEBTF.

Alissa Huang has a BA in Political Economy from the University of California, Berkeley. In 2006, she joined the Division of Workers’ Compensation and became the Manager of the Medical Unit in 2016. She has 17 years of experience working for the Department of Industrial Relations.
Nikki Mehrpoo Jacobson has been advocated for California injured workers and immigrants from all over the world. Ms. Jacobson began her legal career in 1997 after earning her law degree from Pepperdine University School of Law. Los Angeles Magazine, Super Lawyers, Avvo.com and Martindale Hubbell have recognized her for legal knowledge and experience. She is also a Professor of Law at West Los Angeles College.

Stacy Jones is a Senior Research Associate at the California Workers’ Compensation Institute. Stacey has over 25 years of experience in the workers’ compensation industry. She has expertise in implementing statutory and regulatory requirements, health services research, data development and health services management. Recently published research studies evaluating the trends in QME population and medical-legal, inpatient hospital utilization and polypharmacy. Stacy holds an undergraduate degree in Psychology from California State University, Long Beach and a Master’s degree in Psychology from the Chicago School of Professional Psychology.

Mark Kahn graduated from Cal State Northridge (BA) and Southwestern Law School (JD). He began his workers’ compensation career as a State Fund attorney in 1978. He has been a DWC Workers’ Compensation Judge (1981), Presiding Judge (1988), Assistant Chief (1992-1995), and Associate Chief Judge. Mark retired from the bench in 2012 and now works for Altman, Lunche & Blitstein.

Jennifer Kaloper-Bersin is a Workers’ Compensation Judge at the Santa Ana District Office. She received her BA degree from Wagner College and JD from Whittier Law School. She was an Assistant General Counsel for Festival Fun Parks, LLC before she began her career in workers’ compensation as in-house counsel for Liberty Mutual.

Barry Knight has been the Disability Unit Manager since 2010. He began his insurance career as a commercial lines underwriter and claims adjuster for SCIF. Barry joined the Disability Evaluation Unit in 1990 working at the Fresno and Bakersfield district offices. He is a graduate from Fresno State with a degree in business administration.

Yvonne Lang is a partner with Pearlman, Brown & Wax, LLP specializing in the defense of workers’ compensation claims. Yvonne graduated from the University of California at Irvine (BA) in Political Science. She obtained her JD from the University of La Verne College of Law. She worked as a fraud investigator and assisted the National Insurance Crime Bureau and the Los Angeles and Ventura County DA offices with the successful prosecution of doctors in the “What’s Up Doc?” sting.

Eric Ledger is a Workers’ Compensation Judge at the Oakland District Office. Prior to becoming a judge, he worked as Industrial Relations Counsel with the Workers’ Compensation Appeals Board Office of the Commissioners. Before working for the Appeals Board, Mr. Ledger worked as an applicant’s attorney in Sacramento. He is currently the vice-chair of the State Bar of California Workers’ Compensation Executive Committee for which he also co-chairs the education sub-committee.

Paige Levy is the Chief Judge of the Division of Workers’ Compensation. Prior to this appointment she was a Workers’ Compensation Judge (2005) and Presiding Judge (2012) at the Marina Del Rey district office. Before taking the bench Paige was the managing partner of Levy & Associates representing employers and carriers. She has her BA from San Diego State University and JD from Whittier Law School, with honors, and was admitted to the bar the same year (1994).

Deidra Lowe was appointed to the Workers’ Compensation Appeals Board in 2008 and is currently serving a second term, having been reappointed in 2015. Prior to joining the Board, Ms. Lowe practiced law initially as an applicant’s attorney with the firm of Green & Azevedo and later as a defense attorney with the firm of Hanna, Brophy, MacLean, McAleer & Jensen. She received her BA in French from the University of California, Davis and her JD from McGeorge School of Law.

Negar Matian started Matian Law Group in 2011 after practicing law for ten years under traditional law firm settings. Ms. Matian successfully defended both large and small employers. She is an active member of the California Coalition on Workers’ Compensation Conference Committee, which focuses on advancing legislative reform, leadership and advocacy in the workers’ compensation system. Ms. Matian graduated with dual degrees in Communications and Biology and her JD at the University of California, Davis.

W. Kearse McGill graduated from the University of Pacific, McGeorge School of Law in 1991. For ten years, Judge McGill worked as both applicant counsel and defense counsel before becoming a workers’ compensation judge at the WCAB Stockton District Office on May 2, 2005. In 2015, Judge McGill was appointed by the California Supreme Court as a trial judge to the California State Bar Court, the nation’s only full-time trial and appellate court system that exclusively handles attorney discipline cases. In 2016, Judge McGill was elevated to the position of appellate judge by the California Supreme Court. In addition to his work as a judge, Judge McGill is also an adjunct professor of law at Humphrey’s College, Laurence Drivon School of Law.
Speakers’ Bio

Raymond K. Meister, MD is a graduate of Cal State Sacramento (BA) and USC (MD). He has been associated with UC San Francisco’s School of Medicine as an instructor or professor since 1996 and was the Interim Medical Director of San Francisco General’s Occupational Health Service from 2011 to 2014. In 2014, he was appointed as the Associate Medical Director and in 2016 was named the Executive Medical Director of DWC’s Medical Unit.

Monserrat R. Morita is the Southern California Supervisor for the Audit Unit. A graduate of California State Polytechnic University-Pomona, her state career began in 2001 at State Compensation Insurance Fund as a Claims Adjuster. She transferred to the Audit Unit in June 2006.

George Parisotto is the Administrative Director for the Division of Workers’ Compensation. He is a graduate of Loyola Marymount University and the University of California, Hastings College of the Law. George joined DWC as a staff counsel in 1998, and later rejoined the Division in 2007 after spending several years in Seattle, Washington, with the U.S. Department of Labor’s Energy Employees Occupational Illness Compensation Program.

Mark Pew is a Senior Vice President at Preferred Medical. He is an expert in workers’ compensation medical management, with a focus on prescription drug management. Areas of expertise include: abuse and misuse of opioids and other prescription drugs; managing prescription drug utilization and cost; and best practices for weaning people off dangerous drug regimens.

Pamela Pulley graduated from Northwestern University in 1987 with dual BA degrees and earned a JD from the University Of Connecticut School Of Law in 1990. She practiced law from 1990 until 2005, representing workers’ compensation applicants, insurance carriers and social security disability claimants. She became a Workers’ Compensation Judge in Long Beach in 2005 and Presiding Judge in Santa Ana in 2015.

Jose Razo confirmed as a Commissioner to the WCAB in 2016. He received his BA from Stanford and JD from the University of San Diego SOL. Jose has 34 years of experience in workers’ compensation as an applicant’s attorney and defense counsel (Laughlin, Falbo, Levy, & Moresi). He is an arbitrator for the San Mateo County Bar and served in Small Claim Court and Municipal Court in Santa Clara and San Mateo counties. His son Orlando was drafted by the Seattle Mariners in 2017.

Jacqueline Schauer is a graduate of UC Hastings College of the Law. She has been employed as legal counsel in the Department of Industrial Relations’ Office of the Director – Legal Unit from 1984-1991 and the Division of Workers’ Compensation Legal Unit since 1991.

Anne Schmitz joined the WCAB Office of Commissioners in 2010 and is a Deputy Commissioner. She was a claims adjuster, defense attorney, applicant’s attorney, and pro tem judge in the Bay Area. Anne received her undergraduate degree from UC Davis and her JD from the University of the Pacific, McGeorge School of Law in 1993.

Geoffrey Sims has been Workers’ Compensation Judge since February 2012 at the Fresno District Office. Before becoming a judge, Geoffrey was a solo practitioner from 1994 to 1998. Worked as a subrogation counsel for Laughlin, Falbo, Levy, & Moresi in 1998 to 2001. Staff Counsel at State Compensation Insurance Fund from 2001 to 2012. He attended the University of Oregon and received his JD from San Joaquin College of Law.

Lucy Shannon drives the content research and development behind Reed Group’s web-based, health and productivity website, MDGuidelines®. She is responsible for content initiatives within the Guidelines business, including integration of data and content on occupational health, clinical practice guidelines, disability duration guidelines, medical and statutory return-to-work considerations, and predictive and preventive recommendations. Ms. Shannon has 17 years of experience with Reed Group and holds a BS from the University of Oregon.

Glenn Shor is currently Policy Advisor to the Director, Department of Industrial Relations. From 2010 to 2012, he was Special Assistant to the Assistant Secretary at the Occupational Safety and Health Administration, US Department of Labor, in Washington DC. He has served in several managerial/executive positions with DWC including Project Manager, Chief of Policy and Legislation, and acting Research Manager. He is an affiliated researcher and lecturer at UC Berkeley School of Public Health, where he teaches a course on injury prevention and control. Glenn has a PhD and MA in Public Policy (MPP) from the Graduate School of Public Policy at UC Berkeley, and a BA from University of Pennsylvania.

Steven Siemers graduated from California State University at Chico and New College of California school of Law. Admitted to the State Bar in 1980, he is a former Chief Judge at the Division of Workers’ Compensation, he is the principal of Steven Siemers Dispute Resolution, LLC specializing in mediation and arbitration primarily in the field of workers’ compensation.
Speakers’ Bio

Mark Skarakis is a graduate of San Diego State University. His state service began as an EDD hearing representative. His DWC career (2002-2004), before rejoining the Audit Unit in 2004 where he currently works.

Alan Skelly is a Workers’ Compensation Judge at the Anaheim District Offices since 1999. He practiced law from 1988 until 1998 working for various defense firms. Graduated from Cal State University, Fullerton with dual BA in Accounting and Economics and earned a JD from Western State University College of Law.

Craig Snellings recently been appointed by Governor Brown to the California Workers’ Compensation Appeals Board. Prior to his appointment, Mr. Snellings worked for various defense firms: Farmers Insurance; Shaw, Jacobsmeyer, Crain & Claffey; Mullen & Filippi; Adleson, Testan, Brundo, Novell & Jimenez; and State Compensation Insurance Fund. He earned his JD from the University of California, Los Angeles School of Law.

Jamie Spitzer is the Presiding Judge of the Anaheim Workers’ Compensation Appeals Board. She was a judge at this office from 2005 to 2012. Jaime’s law career began in 1992 where she was an attorney and later partner with Ufkes, Bright & Spitzer. A graduate of Cal State Fullerton, she earned her law degree at Whittier College.

Cassandra Stajduhar has been a Workers’ Compensation Judge since February 2012. She received her JD from the University of Nebraska at Lincoln. Prior to becoming a WCJ, she was an attorney with the Department of Industrial Relations, Office of the Director, Legal Unit where she represented the Director in civil litigation and personnel matters and represented the Director as Trustee of the Uninsured Employers Fund and the Subsequent Injury Fund. Before going to work for the state, Judge Stajduhar was in private practice representing health care facilities and providers in transactional, regulatory, and litigation matters.

River Sung works for the Division of Workers’ Compensation as staff counsel. Her experience as a workers’ compensation attorney began in 2012. Prior to that, River worked as a healthcare attorney for four years in both the private and public sectors. She is a graduate of the University of the Pacific, McGeorge School of Law. In her spare time, she enjoys crafting with her kids, re-reading Pride and Prejudice (in theory), and trying out recipes on her newly-acquired bread machine.

Alex Swedlow is the President and Chief Executive Officer of the California Workers’ Compensation Institute. He joined CWCI in 2000 as the executive vice president of research and is the author of many articles on workers’ compensation.

Stella Wolfe has been the Southern Region Supervisor for the I&A Unit since 2016. She is a longstanding employee for the State of California having worked for 37 years, of which 27 with the Dept. of Industrial Relations. From April 2014 to March 2016 supervised the QME Program for the DWC Medical Unit. She also previously worked as a senior claims adjuster for the Uninsured Employers Benefits Trust Fund and a Deputy Labor Commissioner for the Division of Labor Standard Enforcement.

William Zachry is known throughout the risk management industry as a champion of workers’ compensation reform. Previously Bill served as group vice president of risk management for Safeway where his 15 years of leadership there earned him recognition as Business Insurance Risk Manager of the Year in 2014 and recipient of the California Coalition on Workers’ Compensation’s Tim East Award in 2016. Bill currently serves on the board of the State Compensation Insurance Fund and in 2017 he was awarded a senior fellowship at the Sedgwick Institute.

Katherine Zalewski became the Chair on the California Workers’ Compensation Appeals Board. Ms. Zalewski served on the board since her appointment by Governor Brown on April 30, 2014. Prior to her appointment, she was Chief Counsel for the Department of Industrial Relations and a Special Advisor for the DWC Administrative Director. She was a defense attorney for over 20 years and a Workers’ Compensation Judge in the San Francisco District Office. Ms. Zalewski received her BA from the University of California, Berkeley and her JD from Hastings College of the Law.