



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, IL 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.



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.



Shawn Biery

Partner, Keefe Campbell Biery & Associates

Shawn Biery received his JD from Thomas Jefferson School of Law in 2001. He was a founding member of Keefe, Campbell, Biery & Associates in 2003 after practicing in employment law and patent law firms prior. Shawn utilizes strategies similar to those he developed while an active duty member of the US Marines conducting desert warfare training. In addition to his work as a courtroom litigator, Shawn is also an adjunct law professor and regular speaker regarding workers' compensation and employment law issues.



John Campbell

Partner, Keefe Campbell Biery & Associates

John Campbell received his JD from Chicago-Kent College of Law in 1999 and co-founded the Keefe, Campbell, Biery & Associates firm in 2003. John's area of concentration is in workers' compensation as well as employment and OSHA citation defense. John enjoys teaching as an adjunct professor of workers' compensation law as well. JD from Chicago-Kent College of Law in 1999 and co-founded the Keefe, Campbell, Biery & Associates firm in 2003. John's area of concentration is in workers' compensation as well as employment and OSHA citation defense. John enjoys teaching as an adjunct professor of workers' compensation law as well. In addition to his work as a courtroom litigator, John is also an adjunct law professor and regular speaker regarding workers' compensation and employment law issues.



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.



Kevin Deuschle

Partner, Inman & Fitzgibbons, Ltd.

Kevin has been with the firm since 2002. Kevin was named a partner in 2012 and a shareholder of the firm in 2015. His primary area of practice is workers' compensation defense, representing insurance carriers, self-insured businesses, risk management associations, third-party administrators, and municipalities across various industries including transportation, health care, food service, and manufacturing. Mr. Deuschle's practice also includes matters related to general insurance defense

including consulting with clients on a wide range of risk management issues along with the enforcement of clients' subrogation rights and Medicare Secondary Payer compliance issues. Kevin is the Chair of the firm's Client Education Committee and Information Technology Practice Management group, including the firm's Committee on Digital Ethics, and serves as the firm's Director of Digital Initiatives.



Lisa Azoory-Keller

Partner, Nyhan, Bambrick, Kinzie and Lowry

Lisa Azoory-Keller is a Partner at Nyhan, Bambrick, Kinzie & Lowry. She has been practicing workers' compensation law for approximately 12 years with emphasis on trial and appellate work. Lisa defends employers across Illinois and she has written extensively on a variety of topics relating to Illinois Workers' Compensation law. Lisa has also lectured for the Illinois Self-Insurers' Association and the Illinois Institute for Continuing Legal Education on the topics of compensability of work

injuries, and trial practices.



Adam Cox

Partner, Nyhan, Bambrick, Kinzie and Lowry

Mr. Adam J. Cox, Esq. is the Executive Secretary of the Illinois Self Insurers Association and a practicing trial attorney, defending Illinois businesses in workers' compensation matters for the past two decades. He is a partner with the firm, serving on its Diversity Committee and as the liaison for WGN's Kids Fair. Mr. Cox completed his undergraduate at the University of Iowa and graduated from DePaul University College of Law. He is a frequent lecturer for business-oriented groups,

with particular interest in the areas of fraud and benefit entitlement.



Ada Dolph

Partner, Seyfarth Shaw

Ada is a Partner in Seyfarth Shaw's Chicago office. Ada represents clients in a wide range of labor and employment matters, including Illinois Biometric Information Privacy Act claims, ERISA, whistleblower and employment discrimination claims. She is a co-lead of the firm's Air & Rail Specialty group and a member of the ERISA & Employee Benefits practice group and Health Care Fraud & Provider Billing

litigation team. Ada regularly counsels a wide variety of clients, including in the health care, airline, retail, manufacturing, consumer product, and supply-chain industries, regarding compliance with and claims brought under BIPA, Title VII, ADA, Section 1981, ADEA, the Railway Labor Act (RLA), AIR21, the Sarbanes-Oxley Act of 2002 (SOX) and the Dodd-Frank Wall Street Reform and Consumer Protection Act (Dodd-Frank), and their state law counterparts. She has defended matters brought in local, state, and federal agencies (including the EEOC and OSHA), and state and federal courts across the country. Ada's class action defense experience includes unique procedural issues including successfully opposing a named plaintiff-intervenor, obtaining a Fed. R. Civ. P. 23(f) appeal, defeating and narrowing class certification before and after Wal-Mart Stores, Inc. v. Dukes, 131 S. Ct. 2541 (2011), and settlements in classes of up to 120,000 plaintiffs. In 2019, Ada led the team that secured a complete defense win for a large airline carrier in the first BIPA case to be decided by the Seventh Circuit.



Steve McManus
Managing Shareholder, MVP Law

Stephen McManus is the managing shareholder of the firm's St. Louis office. He also serves on the Board of Directors for the firm and the Senior Management team for Business Development and Marketing. Steve limits his practice to representing self-insured employers, third-party administrators and insurance carriers in the defense of a worker's compensation claims in Missouri and Illinois.



Andrew (AJ) Sheehan
Associate Attorney, MVP Law

Andrew (AJ) Sheehan is an associate attorney practicing out of Springfield, Illinois. Since 2015, he has focused his practice on representing employers and insurers in workers' compensation matters throughout Illinois and Missouri. He also works with Insurers to protect their interests in Missouri Medical Fee Disputes.



Peter Stavropoulos
Partner, Brady Connolly & Masuda

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.



Jeffrey Risch
Partner, SmithAmundsen, LLC

Jeff serves as the Chair of Smith Amundsen's expansive management-side Labor & Employment Practice Group. Jeff represents employers in jurisdictions and before administrative tribunals throughout the United States. Jeff provides employment and traditional labor law counsel to several trade associations, including the Illinois Chamber of Commerce. Jeff has also contributed to cutting edge stories produced by several recognized media outlets. He also helped write and edit THE leading resource manual on labor and employment law for Illinois employers published by the Illinois Chamber of Commerce. Jeff is regularly recognized by his peers as a leading lawyer in the field of Labor & Employment Law on a local, regional and national basis, facing Illinois employers and the impacts of the changing landscape of the Illinois Workers' Compensation Act. While in law school, he served as a staff writer and casenote/comment editor of the SIU Law Journal where two of his articles were awarded "Best Casenote" and "Best Comment" and then were published in the SIU Law Journal's 2015 Spring and Fall issues.