



15th ANNUAL



WORKERS' COMPENSATION & SAFETY CONFERENCE

NOVEMBER 2, 2022 | DOUBLETREE HILTON | LISLE
8:30 AM TO 3:00 PM



Aaron Harris

Executive Director, Illinois Chamber of Commerce Employment Law Council

Aaron leverages his background and connections in Illinois state government to help clients further their business objectives. Before joining Michael Best Strategies, he held influential positions in Illinois' Office of the Governor, Department of Juvenile Justice, and State Police. Most recently, Aaron served as the Interim Legislative Director in the Office of Governor JB Pritzker where he managed the Governor's Office of Legislative Affairs staff and statewide legislative liaison workforce. In this role, he advised the Governor on proposed bills, regulatory and administrative procedure, and legislative strategy. Aaron assisted with the successful enactment of the Governor's landmark legislative agenda by securing support from members of the Illinois General Assembly. Prior to assuming this role, Aaron served as the First Assistant Deputy Chief of Staff for Legislative Affairs where he oversaw 16 state agencies legislative priorities, including energy, environment, infrastructure, public safety, and elections. Earlier in his career, Aaron was Chief of Intergovernmental Relations for the Illinois Department of Juvenile Justice's Office of Governmental Relations. In that role he drafted, passed, and implemented criminal justice reform and other legislation to advance the department's legislative agenda, while securing a \$120 million annual budget appropriation.



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.



Ben Friederich

Vice President of Corporations and Co-owner, Abacus Research, Inc.

Ben Friederich joined Abacus Research, Inc. in 2008, partnering with Paul A. Seguin. Ben received a B.A. from Southern Illinois University at Carbondale, with a major in Administration of Justice, secondary concentrations in Criminal Investigations and Aerospace Studies and a minor in Political Science. It was Ben and Paul's vision to grow Abacus Research, Inc. into not only a nationwide investigations contractor, but a premier investigations provider of superior quality to the insurance and corporate industries. Today, they provide services to some of the largest manufacturing, transportation and food/retail employers in the United States and a wide range of third-party administrators, workers' compensation, and auto-liability insurance providers.



Peter J. Stavropoulos

Senior Partner, BCM Law

Peter J. Stavropoulos is a Senior Partner at BCM Law specializing in the defense of workers' compensation claims for employers, insurers and third-party administrators. Mr. Stavropoulos has secured numerous victories on behalf of employers and has been successful in defending high exposure cases with alleged permanent total disability and significant wage loss claims. Aside from several zero awards, he has 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. He is also a Past President of the Workers' Compensation Lawyers Association.



Douglas Craig, Psy.D.

President, Atlantic OccPsych

Douglas Craig, PsyD is a nationally recognized subject matter expert in psychological testing, forensic assessment and police psychology. Dr. Craig is considered a subject matter expert in occupational-related psychological evaluations, including but not limited to pre-employment, fitness for duty, and workers' compensation contexts.

A former police officer and university professor, Dr. Craig offers a deep, firsthand perspective on occupational medical and psychological wellness combined with a passion for advocacy and education. At Atlantic OccuPsych, he focuses on using scientifically validated methods for assessment and evaluation, as well as evidence-based interventions for anxiety, mood and trauma-related disorders.

In addition to contributing to current professional standards and guidelines, Dr. Craig has conducted more than 15,000 psychological evaluations and is expert in independent medical examinations. He has collaborated with a variety of organizations, from the Drug Enforcement Administration, United States Postal Inspection Service and Chicago Police Department to small private businesses.



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. 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.



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.



James Egan

Partner, Keefe Campbell Biery & Associates

Jim Egan received his JD from John Marshall Law School in 1988. He is a thirty-year practitioner with extensive civil practice throughout the State of Illinois. Formerly managing partner of James F. Egan and Associates, Ltd., Jim was recruited to merge his practice with Keefe & Associates as of January 1, 2004. He has lectured frequently on the Illinois Workers' Compensation Act and is a contributing lecturer for Rosecrance Legal Considerations of Marijuana in the Workplace presentations and podcast.