



**ILLINOIS
CHAMBER**



**Illinois
Self-Insurers'
Association**

WORKERS' COMPENSATION

AND SAFETY CONFERENCE

OCTOBER 13, 2026

8:00 am – 4:00 pm

NIU Center

1120 E. Diehl Rd | Naperville IL 60563

Agenda – Tentative – Subject to Change

7:30 a.m.–8:30 a.m.

8:30 a.m.–8:55 a.m.

Registration and Breakfast Networking presented by Ford Motor Co. – Expo is open
Opening Remarks and Introductions

- **Lori Poppe Hiltabrand, COO and General Counsel, Illinois Chamber of Commerce**
- **Adam Cox, Executive Director, Illinois Self-Insurers' Association**
- **Gina Breen, President, Illinois Self-Insurers' Association**

8:55 a.m. – 9:45 a.m.

Panel Discussion – Combined panel (What keeps you up at night)

Moderator: William Lowry, Nyhan, Bambrick, Kinzie & Lowry, P.C.

Panelist: Ashley Bayless, Gallagher Asphalt

Panelist: Jeff Cravalho, Caterpillar

Panelist: Christine Jagodzinski, Nyhan, Bambrick, Kinzie & Lowry, P.C.

Panelist: Lori Poppe Hiltabrand, Illinois Chamber of Commerce

9:45 – 10:00 am

Morning Break and visit exhibitors

10:05 – 10:55

Breakout Sessions

Workshop #1: Back to Work – Getting the Injured Employee Back to Work, Diandra Abate and Matt Gorski, Amundsen Davis Law, LLC

Join Diandra Abate and Matt Gorski as they explore practical strategies for returning injured workers to productive employment safely, effectively, and efficiently. They will address common challenges employers encounter throughout the return-to-work process and provide tips on how to manage those issues. Lastly, they will examine proactive measures employers can implement to reduce the risk of repeat injuries and improve long-term safety and compliance.

Workshop #2: Accident Investigations/Best Practices for Post-Accident Procedures, Kevin Deuschle, IFMK Law

An employer's approach to accident investigation is a critical part of claim handling as it impacts the availability of good evidence, work culture, and often the final outcome in workers' compensation cases. We will discuss the legal perspective on the do's and don'ts when it comes to gathering documentation, effective communication, and maintaining a productive workforce.

Workshop #3: Empowering Employers to Take Control of their Workers' Compensation Costs, Dr. Raj Khanna, CompCorePro

Dr. Raj Khanna, CompCore Pro. CompCorePro (CCP) assists employers with taking control of their workers' compensation claims to control costs and close cases timely. CCP provides workers' compensation medical oversight and coordination of care. CCP's proprietary software and team of clinicians assist you in cost effectively managing your claims. We have successfully helped employers identify and resolve issues such as over-utilization of medical services, misdiagnosed cases, and delays in the workers' compensation system. CCP provides the missing link companies need to effectively monitor claims.

Workshop #4: Dr. Adam Young, Illinois Bone & Joint Institute – Pain Management: Proven Treatments and Emerging Evidence

11:00 am – 12:00 pm	General Session – AI and Technology in Workers' Compensation Keefe Campbell Biery & Associates - Shawn Biery and John Campbell <i>Explore how artificial intelligence is transforming the workers' compensation landscape, from claims processing and fraud detection to legal, ethical, and regulatory considerations. Learn how emerging technologies are creating new opportunities while presenting evolving challenges for attorneys, employers, insurers, and claims professionals.</i>
12:00 p.m. – 12:40 pm	Visit Exhibitors & Lunch Buffet presented by Keefe, Campbell, Biery & Assoc.
12:40 -1:20 pm	General Session – Illinois Workers' Compensation Commission Update Michael Brennan, Chairman, Illinois Workers' Compensation Commission
1:20 pm – 2:10 pm	General Session – The Do's and Don'ts of Mediating Workplace Injury: A Win, Win, Win Perspective Dr. Doug Craig, President, Atlantic OccuPsych <i>The Independent Medical Examination is an assessment commonly used in workers compensation. Attendees will learn about psychological trauma, what the diagnostic standard is for posttraumatic stress disorder, common practice challenges, iatrogenic influences, and how to mediate and intervene when trauma arises with emphasis on the role of the IME. Discussions will focus on evidence based psychological interventions, common pitfalls, standards of practice, and psychological interventions that contribute more harm than good. Lastly, there will be opportunity for case examples, questions, and live discussion in common challenges attendees face regarding psychological trauma mediation.</i>
2:10 p.m. – 2:25 p.m.	Afternoon Break & Visit Exhibitors
2:25 – 2:45 pm	General Session – 2026 Legislative Developments Lori Poppe Hiltabrand, Illinois Chamber of Commerce
2:45 p.m. -3:45 p.m.	General Session - A Potpourri of Appellate Cases Lisa Azoory-Keller and Adam Cox, Illinois Self Insurers' Association <i>Adam J. Cox and Lisa Azoory-Keller discuss some of the Appellate Court cases issued over the past year, the issues and scenarios analyzed, and the impact going forward for workers' compensation claims."</i>
3:45 p.m.	Exhibitor Introductions, Drawings for Prizes & Closing Remarks for adjournment