

2021 CONFERENCE SPEAKERS



DAVID BONDY

Founder and Chief Executive Officer, LUBA Casualty insurance Company

David Bondy received his bachelor's degree in Business Administration and Marketing from Louisiana State University. He immediately entered the insurance business upon graduation, beginning his career with Crawford and Company, an international provider of risk management and investigative services. In 1979, David was instrumental in the passage of Louisiana legislations which enabled the creation of the State's first workers' compensation self-insurance funds. Additionally, he is a co-founder of the Louisiana Association of Self Insured Employers (LASIE). In 1991, David founded LUBA Workers' Comp, and continues to serve as Chief Executive Officer. LUBA's success has earned him a position as finalist for Ernst & Young's Entrepreneur of the Year award and a place in the Hall of Distinction of LSU's College of Business. David has also volunteered his personal time by serving on over 15 different nonprofit boards throughout his career, some of which include Teach for America, the Louisiana Art & Science Museum, Junior Achievement, and the Catholic Prison Ministry.



CHRIS O'DONNELL

FAIR Health

As Executive Director, Business Operations, Chris O'Donnell is responsible for business operations at FAIR Health, including customer service, internal administration, product and project management and the overall customer experience for the multiple stakeholder groups that FAIR Health serves.

She also leads worker's compensation engagements with state clients. Prior to joining FAIR Health, Chris ran her own consulting practice, helping financial services organizations develop user-friendly products and processes.



LAURA GORE

WALMART

Laura Gore is currently a Senior Manager of Walmart's Workers' Compensation program and has responsibility for 17 states across the United State, including Louisiana. In this role, Laura is responsible for overseeing the claims handling, leadership team and operational claims strategies for all divisions of Wal-Mart Stores, Inc., including Walmart Stores, Sam's Club, and Walmart's Logistics and Transportation operations.

Laura began her career with Walmart in 2001 as a Workers' Compensation medical only adjuster. Laura quickly worked her way up through the various case manager roles and became a Claims Supervisor in 2006. Laura provided direct oversight for several states across the country including LA, GA, MS, MA, WV, MO, AR and KS. Laura is a native of Bentonville, Arkansas and received her Bachelor's of Science in Psychology with an emphasis on Industrial and Organizational Psychology from the University of Arkansas.



DONNA SMITH

FAIR Health

Donna Smith is Chief Client Officer at FAIR Health, a national, independent, nonprofit corporation dedicated to bringing transparency to healthcare costs and health insurance information through comprehensive data products, consumer resources and health systems research support. As executive sponsor for FAIR Health's large client base and workers' compensation agencies, Ms. Smith demonstrates how FAIR Health data bring value to the various stakeholders that cross multiple market segments in the healthcare ecosystem. Ms. Smith has over 30 years of experience in the healthcare industry, concentrating on benefits administration, managed care, payor, claims and provider solutions. Donna has served in many facets of the insurance and healthcare sectors, such as employee benefits, health plans, workers' compensation, property and casualty, third-party administrator solutions. Ms. Smith continues to participate and speak at various industry forums representing the many sectors and stakeholders FAIR Health serves.



JUDGE FRANK MCKAY

FAIR Health

Judge FRANK R. MCKAY is a Director and Appellate Judge for the Georgia State Board of Workers' Compensation where he served as Chairman for eight years. Judge McKay received the 2019 National Judge Comp Laude Award from WorkCompCentral. He is a Past-President of the Southern Association of Workers' Compensation Administrators (SAWCA). He served on the Board of Directors for the National Association of Workers' Compensation Judiciary (NAWCJ). He served on the Board of Directors for the International Association of Industrial Accident Boards and Commissions (IAIABC) and serves on the Board of Advisors for the Workers' Compensation Institute (WCI). He served on the Board of Directors of Kids' Chance of Georgia. He is a Fellow in the College of Workers' Compensation Lawyers (CWCL). He is an Advisory Committee member of the Workers' Compensation Research Institute (WCRI) and serves on Georgia's Statewide Opioid Task Force.

He came to the Board in 2013 from private practice where he was a partner in the Stewart, Melvin and Frost law firm in Gainesville, Georgia. His practice was concentrated in workers' compensation, and he tried and presented many cases before the Administrative Law Judges and the Appellate Division of the State Board and appeals to the Superior Courts and the Georgia Court of Appeals. He was a former Special Assistant Attorney General handling workers' compensation claims for the State of Georgia. He was on the State Board's Advisory Council prior to being appointed the Chairman by the Governor of Georgia in 2013 and 2017. He was reappointed a Director and Appellate Judge by Governor Brian P. Kemp in 2021. He obtained his law degree (J.D.) from Walter F. George School of Law, Mercer University, and his undergraduate degree (B.A. Economics) from Clemson University.



JILL LEONARD, M.ED., LRC, AIC, ARE, AIDA, CWCP, CPCU
LWCC

Jill Leonard currently serves as Vice President of Claims and PHS Operations. Jill originally joined LWCC in March 1993, advancing her way through the claims department. Her industry experience also includes work as a vocational rehabilitation counselor, Director of Claims and Litigation for a Self-Insured Fund, and most recently prior to her current employment at LWCC in state government as the Director of the Louisiana Second Injury Board. She currently maintains responsibility for the Occupational Medicine and Claims Operations groups as well as the PHS Operations team. Ms. Leonard earned a B. S. in Mathematics and Psychology from Louisiana State University in Baton Rouge and as well as a Master of Education (M. Ed.) in Community Counseling from Southeastern Louisiana University. She maintains her status as a Licensed Vocational Rehabilitation Counselor and her CPCU designation. Ms. Leonard has also served on several OWC task force groups in the areas of EDI (electronic data interchange), electronic medical billing, fraud, and fee schedule updates. In addition, Ms. Leonard has served as an instructor for LASIE's CWCP program.



JOHN D. RAY
THE RAY FIRM, L.L.C.

JOHN D. RAY is the owner of The Ray Firm, L.L.C.. His primary practice is in the area of workers' compensation law. Mr. Ray has served as a mediator for the Louisiana Office of Workers' Compensation Court in both District "02" (Alexandria) and District "04" (Lafayette). In addition, Mr. Ray is a former Assistant Attorney General with the Louisiana Department of Justice. During that time, he served as the Section Chief of the Workers' Compensation Section. As Section Chief, he supervised all workers' compensation litigation in which the State of Louisiana was the employer as well as served as in-house legal advisor to the Louisiana Office of Risk Management and all state agencies and institutions regarding workers' compensation issues. He practiced in the private sector as an insurance defense attorney exclusively in the areas of workers' compensation and subrogation. Mr. Ray is a member of many professional organizations including the American, Louisiana, Baton Rouge, and New Orleans Bar Associations. Mr. Ray is a past vice-chair of the American Bar Association's Workers' Compensation & Employer Liability Law Committee (2006 – 2008) and currently co-chairs the Louisiana Bar Association Annual Workers' Compensation Seminar.



SONIA CROCKETT
CORVEL CORPORATION

Sonia Crockett is an industry claims leader in Louisiana with over 35 years of experience. While most of her career has been focused on workers' compensation, she has managed claims in multiple jurisdictions and across all lines of property and casualty, including liability, USL&H, and Jones Act exposure. She possesses extensive knowledge and experience in audit and litigation, including the supervision of a subrogation unit. For the last 6 years she has served as the Claims Manager for CorVel Corporation, a national third party administrator, overseeing workers' compensation claims for some of the largest public and private employers in the country. Before coming to CorVel, Sonia served as Branch Manager and Claims Manager for the FARA (York) branch in Shreveport. She was also the Assistant Vice President of Workers' Compensation, as the claims administrator for the State of Louisiana's Office of Risk Management workers' compensation program for 5 years.



WAYNE J. FONTANA

ROEDEL PARSONS BLACHE FONTANA PIONTEK & PISANO, ALC

Wayne Fontana has served as legal consultant to Governors Treen, Roemer, Foster and Jindal. He currently serves as the Managing Shareholder in the New Orleans office of the ROEDEL PARSONS BLACHE FONTANA PIONTEK & PISANO, ALC. For three decades, he has drafted numerous legislative bills, testified before the Louisiana legislature on behalf of business interests and the aforementioned governors, and he has lobbied and helped pass all major business initiated tort reform and workers' compensation reforms since 1983. Through multiple gubernatorial appointments, he served on the Advisory Council for the Office of Workers' Compensation for multiple terms.

Mr. Fontana is general counsel for LASIE (Louisiana Association of Self Insured Employers), sits on its Advisory Board and teaches its nationally recognized CWCP (Certified Workers' Compensation Professional) Program. Mr. Fontana has served the New Orleans Regional Chamber of Commerce as its vice chairman, as chairman of its legislative committee and public policy committee and as a member of its Board of Directors, Executive Cabinet and Council of Governments. For over 30 years, Mr. Fontana has been committed to and very involved with the state chamber, the Louisiana Association of Business and Industry (LABI), serving on its Board of Directors and Executive Committee and chairing numerous committees, councils and task forces devoted to workers' compensation and tort reform.

Mr. Fontana was at the forefront of the 6 – 7 year legal battle over drug costs in workers' compensation, and he represented the New Orleans Sewerage and Water Board before the Louisiana Supreme Court in the landmark Burgess decision, which established employer choice of pharmacy. He also represented the St. Bernard Parish Government in the Hartman decision, another recent Supreme Court decision which protected Louisiana employers from thousands of gradual hearing loss claims. On liability and workers' compensation matters, Mr. Fontana serves as one of the chief spokespersons for the business community, appearing frequently in print media and on television, radio, the internet, and as a seminar speaker. Mr. Fontana practices primarily in the areas of workers' compensation defense, personal injury defense, casualty and insurance defense and governmental affairs.



PATRICK ROBINSON

ODG BY MCG

Patrick Robinson is the Vice President of Government Affairs for ODG by MCG, and a former judge and Director of the Louisiana Office of Workers' Compensation. He received his law degree from Louisiana State University in 1994, and his MBA from Southeastern Louisiana University in 2021. Patrick is an AV-rated workers' compensation attorney and represented litigants in the Louisiana Office of Workers' Compensation court system for many years. After leaving government service in 2016, he worked as a regional director for the Workers' Compensation Research Institute. He is a veteran of the United States Army, an avid bicyclist, and a poor golfer.



DR. JOHN RUSER

WORKERS' COMPENSATION RESEARCH INSTITUTE

John W. Ruser is President and CEO of the Workers' Compensation Research Institute (WCRI) in Cambridge, Massachusetts. The Institute is an independent, not-for-profit research organization. It provides high-quality, objective research and statistical information about public policy issues involving the various state workers' compensation insurance systems in the United States. Dr. Ruser is responsible for executive leadership and strategic planning for the Institute, as well as oversight of the Institute's economic and statistical research program.

Dr. Ruser previously held three executive positions in the Federal statistical system, including serving as Associate Commissioner for Productivity and Technology and Assistant Commissioner for Safety, Health and Working Conditions, both at the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS), and Associate Director for Regional Economics at the U.S. Department of Commerce, Bureau of Economic Analysis. In these three positions, he managed statistical programs that produced data on productivity, worker safety and health, and regional income, price and product accounts. Earlier in his career, Dr. Ruser was a researcher and Chief of the BLS office that conducted research on employee compensation and working conditions in the US, including measures of employee wages and benefits and worker safety and health.

Dr. Ruser has written many academic peer-reviewed and non-technical articles and book chapters on occupational safety and health, workers' compensation insurance and employee benefits. He holds Ph.D. and M.A. degrees in economics from the University of Chicago and a B.A. in economics from Princeton University.



RAJI CHADAREVIAN

NCCI

Raji Chadarevian is the Director of Medical Regulation and Informatics at NCCI. He currently leads a team of actuaries responsible for pricing proposed and enacted legislative changes to laws and regulations governing medical benefits in workers compensation in all NCCI states. With over 20 years in the workers compensation field, Chadarevian is NCCI's primary actuarial expert on matters relating to medical data and workers compensation health informatics. Prior to joining NCCI, he was vice president of operations for an automobile insurer MGA. He started his career in the actuarial field at River Oaks Group, parent to two insurance companies. Raji received his BS in mathematics from the University of Southern California in Los Angeles.



DR. DOUGLAS LURIE

OANO & CONCENTRA MEDICAL CENTERS

Douglas Lurie, MD, is an orthopaedic surgeon with board certification by the American Board of Orthopaedic Surgery with subspecialty board certification in Sports medicine. Dr. Lurie graduated from Birmingham Southern College as a Phi Beta appa, magna cum laude graduate with a Bachelor of Science degree in Business Management. Dr. Lurie graduated from the University of South Alabama School of Medicine where he was elected to the Alpha Omega Alpha medical honor society.

Dr Lurie completed his Orthopaedic Surgery internship and residency at Ochsner Clinic Foundation in New Orleans, where he was a chief resident. Dr. Lurie has experience in sports medicine, adult reconstruction and fracture care. Dr. Lurie performs total hip, knee and shoulder replacements as well as numerous arthroscopies of the shoulder and knee. Dr. Lurie specializes in sports injuries of the active adult. Also, he has special interest in providing the evaluation and treatment of the workers compensation injury patient so that these patients can return to the work force as quickly and safely as possible. Dr. Lurie treats workers' compensation patients.



CARL VAN

ITP (Insurance Training Professional)

Carl Van is President & CEO of International Insurance Institute, Inc. He graduated from California State University, Sacramento where he received his Bachelor's degree in Insurance. He has been in the insurance claims industry since 1980 and has held the positions of Claims Adjuster, Claims Supervisor, Claims Manager, Division Claims Manager and Regional Manager over Claims, Loss Control and Premium Audit. Mr.

Van has set up five in-house claims training programs for various insurance companies throughout the nation, and has written articles for Claims Magazine, Claims People Magazine, National Underwriter, California Insurance Journal and over 100 other national and international publications. He has been a keynote speaker at claims conferences around the country, a trainer at an international U.S-Japanese executive training program, a guest speaker at hundreds of claims association seminars, and selected as the opening presenter at some of the most prestigious claims conferences in the nation, including the Claims Magazine ACE national conference.

Mr. Van is the Dean of the School of Claims Performance, and has served as both board member and Regional Vice President of the Society of Insurance Trainers and Educators. He is owner and publisher of Claims Education Magazine, and board president of the Claims Education Conference. He is creator, presenter and producer of all claims training videos at Claims Education On Line, which include Time Management, Customer Service, Negotiations and Critical Thinking, all specific to claims professionals. Mr. Van is owner and publisher of Claims Professional Books On Line, and is the author of the highly acclaimed book The 8 Characteristics of the Awesome Adjuster, which has sold internationally throughout the United States, Canada, Guam, Singapore, France, Australia, England, Chile, Ireland, and 25 other countries. Other books by Carl Van include Gaining Cooperation, Gaining Cooperation for the Workers' Comp. Professional and The Claims Cookbook. Books for the general business audience include two internationally released books, Attitude, Ability and the 80/20 Rule and The Eight Characteristics of the Awesome Employee.

He writes all materials for his Carl Van Claims Expert blog, and provides claims tips on his Carl Van Professional Speaker YouTube channel. Past credits include being an arbitrator, a licensed agent, a TASA certified expert witness for insurance Bad Faith suits, as well as a national auditor for a federal regulatory agency.