

State of California Division of Workers' Compensation

The 19th Annual Educational Conference

Los Angeles Sheraton Gateway
Oakland Marriott City Center

February 23 - 24, 2012
March 5 - 6, 2012



*In association with the International Workers' Compensation Foundation,
a non-profit corporation dedicated to workers' compensation research and education*

Serving the People of California Since 1911.

DWC 19th Annual Educational Conference

Day 1	February 23, 2012	Los Angeles
	March 5, 2012	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 (See Day 1 Grid)	
4:30 p.m. to 6:00 p.m.	Reception – No Host Bar	

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



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DWC 19th Annual Educational Conference

Day 2	February 24, 2012	Los Angeles
	March 6, 2012	Oakland
7:30 a.m. to 8:30 a.m.	Continental Breakfast	
8:30 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.	Breakout Sessions (See Day 2 Grid)	
12:00 p.m. to 1:00 p.m.	Lunch and Award Presentation	
1:15 p.m. to 3:30 p.m.	Breakout Sessions (See Day 2 Grid)	

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



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19th Annual DWC Educational Conference

Los Angeles Airport Sheraton -- February 23 - 24, 2012

February 23	Malibu-Redondo	Gateway Ballroom	Grand Ballroom	Hermosa-Laguna
9:30 - 12:30 PM <i>*Grand Ballroom Foyer*</i>	<i>Registration</i>			
12:30 - 1:00 PM <i>*Grand Ballroom*</i>	<i>Welcoming Presentation: Christine Baker, Director, DIR Rosa Moran, Administrative Director, DWC</i>			
1:00 - 2:00 PM	Electronic Filing in EAMS <i>Fudem and Lang</i>	Apportionment <i>Correio & Kahn</i>	Social Media and Workers' Compensation Fraud <i>Clifford, Herreras, Marshall & Morris</i>	How to Successfully Request DEU Services <i>Patterson & Snaer</i>
2:15 - 3:15 PM	Back to Basics: PAR Audit <i>King & Lee</i>	Loss of Future Earning Capacity Evaluations <i>Byrd, Cottle, Stevenson & Van de Bittner</i>	Case Law Update I <i>Clarke, Kahn & Kutz</i>	Issues in PD Rating <i>Faina & Knight</i>
3:30 - 4:30 PM	Electronic Filing in EAMS <i>Fudem and Lang</i>	New Lien Regulations and Lien Issues <i>Foust & Hamilton</i>	Case Law Update II <i>Clarke, Kahn & Kutz</i>	Petitions for Change of Treating Physicians <i>Robbins</i>
4:30 - 6:00 PM <i>*Grand Ballroom Foyer*</i>	<i>Reception – No Host Bar</i>			



19th Annual DWC Educational Conference

Los Angeles Airport Sheraton -- February 23 - 24, 2012

February 24	Catalina-Clemente	Gateway Ballroom	Malibu-Redondo	Hermosa-Laguna
8:30 - 9:30 AM	<p>Case Law Update I</p> <p><i>Clarke, Kahn & Kutz</i></p>	<p>Why and When the Adjuster Should Hire Attorney</p> <p><i>DaSilva, DePaolo & Mason</i></p>	<p>New Lien Regulations and Lien Issues</p> <p><i>Foust & Hamilton</i></p>	<p>Top Ten Litigation Tips from a Judicial Perspective</p> <p><i>Casey, Levy & Quiel</i></p>
9:45 - 10:45 AM	<p>Case Law Update II</p> <p><i>Clarke, Kahn, & Kutz</i></p>	<p>How to Successfully Request DEU Services</p> <p><i>Patterson & Snaer</i></p>	<p>Medical Control and MPN</p> <p><i>Allweiss, Dombchik & Glauber</i></p>	<p>Ogilvie</p> <p><i>Casey, Jacobsmeyer & Rassp</i></p>
11:00 - 12:00 PM	<p>Opioids in Workers' Comp</p> <p><i>Feinberg & Swedlow</i></p>	<p>Issues in PD Rating</p> <p><i>Faina & Knight</i></p>	<p>The View from the 9th Floor: WCAB Recon Unit</p> <p><i>Caplane & Moresi</i></p>	<p>Top Ten Litigation Tips from a Judicial Perspective</p> <p><i>Casey, Levy, & Quiel</i></p>
12:00 - 1:00 PM *Grand Ballroom*	<p>LUNCH – Carrie Nevans Community Service Award Presentation</p>			
1:15 - 2:15 PM	<p>WCIS Issues</p> <p><i>Daba, Gordon & Jones</i></p>	<p>Why and When the Adjuster Should Hire Attorney</p> <p><i>DaSilva, DePaolo & Mason</i></p>	<p>Loss of Future Earning Capacity Evaluations</p> <p><i>Byrd, Cottle, Stevenson & Van De Bitnner</i></p>	<p>Opioids in Workers' Comp</p> <p><i>Feinberg & Swedlow</i></p>
2:30 - 3:30 PM	<p>Workers' Comp Market Trends</p> <p><i>Allen, Clark, Smith, Valdivia, & Wong</i></p>	<p>Ogilvie</p> <p><i>Casey, Jacobsmeyer & Rassp</i></p>	<p>The AME/QME Process</p> <p><i>Fisher, Peterson, Sugarman & Young</i></p>	<p>Harness the Power of Medical Management</p> <p><i>Overpeck, Peplowski, Pfeffer, Riegler & Wiesner</i></p>



19th Annual DWC Educational Conference

Oakland Marriott City Center -- March 5 - 6, 2012

March 5	Grand Ballroom A-B-C-D	Junior Ballroom	East Hall	Grand Ballroom E-F-G-H
9:30 - 12:30 PM <i>*Grand Ballroom Foyer*</i>	<i>Registration</i>			
12:30 - 1:00 PM <i>*East Hall*</i>	<i>Welcoming Presentation: Christine Baker, Director, DIR Rosa Moran, Administrative Director, DWC</i>			
1:00 - 2:00 PM	Electronic Filing in EAMS <i>Fudem and Lang</i>	Apportionment <i>Correio & Kahn</i>	Social Media and Workers' Compensation Fraud <i>Clifford, Lee, Marshall & von Geldern</i>	How to Successfully Request DEU Services <i>Patterson & Snaer</i>
2:15 - 3:15 PM	Back to Basics: PAR Audit <i>King & Lee</i>	Loss of Future Earning Capacity Evaluations <i>Byrd, Cottle, Simon & Stevenson</i>	Case Law Update I <i>Clarke, Kahn & Kutz</i>	Issues in PD Rating <i>Faina & Knight</i>
3:30 - 4:30 PM	Electronic Filing in EAMS <i>Fudem and Lang</i>	New Lien Regulations and Lien Issues <i>Foust & Hamilton</i>	Case Law Update II <i>Clarke, Kahn & Kutz</i>	Petitions for Change of Treating Physicians <i>Robbins</i>
4:30 - 6:00 PM <i>*East Hall*</i>	<i>Reception – No Host Bar</i>			



19th Annual DWC Educational Conference

Oakland Marriott City Center -- March 5 - 6, 2012

March 6	Grand Ballroom A-B-C-D	Junior Ballroom	East Hall	Grand Ballroom E-F-G-H
8:30 - 9:30 AM	<p>Case Law Update I</p> <p><i>Clarke, Kahn & Kutz</i></p>	<p>Why and When the Adjuster Should Hire Attorney</p> <p><i>DaSilva, Latimer & Mason</i></p>	<p>New Lien Regulations and Lien Issues</p> <p><i>Foust & Hamilton</i></p>	<p>Top Ten Litigation Tips from a Judicial Perspective</p> <p><i>Casey, Harter & Rados</i></p>
9:45 - 10:45 AM	<p>Case Law Update II</p> <p><i>Clarke, Kahn, & Kutz</i></p>	<p>How to Successfully Request DEU Services</p> <p><i>Patterson & Snaer</i></p>	<p>Medical Control and MPN</p> <p><i>Allweiss & Gearhart</i></p>	<p>Ogilvie</p> <p><i>Casey, Jacobsmeyer & Rassp</i></p>
11:00 - 12:00 PM	<p>Opioids in Workers' Comp</p> <p><i>Feinberg & Swedlow</i></p>	<p>Issues in PD Rating</p> <p><i>Faina & Knight</i></p>	<p>The View from the 9th Floor: WCAB Recon Unit</p> <p><i>Caplane & Moresi</i></p>	<p>Top Ten Litigation Tips from a Judicial Perspective</p> <p><i>Casey, Harter & Rados</i></p>
12:00 - 1:00 PM <i>*West Hall*</i>	<p><i>LUNCH – Carrie Nevans Community Service Award Presentation</i></p>			
1:15 - 2:15 PM	<p>WCIS Issues</p> <p><i>Daba, Gordon, Jones & Parisotto</i></p>	<p>Why and When the Adjuster Should Hire Attorney</p> <p><i>DaSilva, Latimer & Mason</i></p>	<p>Loss of Future Earning Capacity Evaluations</p> <p><i>Byrd, Cottle, Simon & Stevenson</i></p>	<p>Opioids in Workers' Comp</p> <p><i>Feinberg & Swedlow</i></p>
2:30 - 3:30 PM	<p>Workers' Comp Market Trends</p> <p><i>Allen, Bellusci, Clark, Hauge, & Wong</i></p>	<p>Ogilvie</p> <p><i>Casey, Jacobsmeyer & Rassp</i></p>	<p>The AME/QME Process</p> <p><i>Fisher, Peterson, Sugarman & Young</i></p>	<p>Harness the Power of Medical Management</p> <p><i>Anderson, Helm, Overpeck, Peplowski & Wiesner</i></p>

Breakout Sessions

The AME/QME Process	DWC will moderate an AME/QME panel discussion for the various medical-legal examination tracks from the perspective of attorneys and defendants.
Apportionment	A comprehensive case law update focusing on apportionment problem areas including: overlap, range of medical evidence, pertinent cases, and petitions to reopen.
Back to Basics: PAR Audit	The Audit Unit provides an in-depth explanation of the PAR audit process and the basis for measuring the performance of a claims administrator providing workers' compensation benefits.
Case Law Update I & II	This two-hour session will review the most important case decisions issued in 2011. These cases include decisions that appear to resolve situations in which the appellate proceedings are not final or do not clearly resolve the issues.
How to Request DEU Services	This session will discuss the ways to request these types of ratings: PQME summary rating, treating physician summary rating, supplemental rating, and consultative rating (including Rating MSC requests). There will also be a discussion of Almaraz/Guzman ratings, Requests for Reconsiderations of summary ratings, and commutation requests.
Issues in PD Rating	This session will deal with current issues in PD rating including possible questions to ask the physician for clarification purposes.
Electronic filing in EAMS	This session will discuss electronic filing in EAMS via e-forms or JET File. DWC in conjunction with its vendor partners will discuss these, the fastest way to enter documents into the system.
Harness the Power of Medical Management	This panel of DWC legal and medical staff, and private sector professionals will discuss practical and best practices in utilization review and medical provider networks.
How to Petition for Change of Treating Physician	The session will include a review of circumstances where it is appropriate to request a petition to remove the treating physician before the Administrative Director as well as the procedures for properly filing and responding to these petitions. Common pitfalls will also be discussed.
Loss of Future Earning Capacity Evaluations	This workshop will discuss the history of loss of future earning capacity from LeBouef to Ogilvie and then a panel of vocational counselors will discuss their methodology to make this evaluation using client interviews, transferrable skills, tests, labor market surveys, numeric formulas, among other tools.
Medical Control and MPNs	This session will feature a defense and applicant attorney and their perspectives on establishing or contesting medical control when an injured employee is covered under a Medical Provider Network.

Breakout Sessions

Ogilvie	Listen to a judge and two prominent applicant and defense attorneys discuss this seminal permanent disability case.
Opioids in Workers' Compensation	With annual cost estimates for opioids soaring, plus the human toll, workers' compensation stakeholders have begun to look for ways to prevent and mitigate the dangers associated with opioid use. Hear from a researcher and a pain specialist medical provider on the problem and practical ways to solve this crisis.
Research and Workers' Compensation Information System (WCIS)	This session will review data reporting and information available. Learn more about the new regulations that were recently approved and become effective last year. It discusses data report changes to both medical and FROI/SROI systems as part of its 12-point plan to monitor medical costs more effectively.
Social Media and Workers' Compensation Fraud	The social media – internet forums, blogs, networking, micro blogs, among others – is everywhere. This panel will discuss the use of social media for workers' compensation purposes from the perspective of an applicant's attorney, insurance carrier, and district attorney.
The View from the 9th Floor: WCAB Reconsideration Unit	The WCAB Reconsideration Unit will tell you how to get the most out of your petition for reconsideration, discuss sanctions, and cover other areas of recurrent problems and issues.
Top Ten Litigation Tips from a Judicial Perspective	This presentation will provide you with the tips and tools for effective litigation before the WCAB, from prepping for hearing to actual representation at conferences and trials. You will be provided with the perspectives from a panel of Workers' Compensation Judges regarding their expectations of those litigating claims before the WCAB.
Why and When an Adjuster Should Hire an Attorney	This session will discuss why and when an adjuster should engage a defense attorney to help defend a case. Panelists will include a former presiding judge and two defense attorneys.
Workers' Compensation Market Trends	This session will cover what is happening in the California workers' compensation market from the perspective of an insurance broker, Workers' Compensation Insurance Rating Bureau, Department of Insurance, and State Fund.

Presenters

Kenneth Allen is a graduate of California State University at Fullerton with a degree in Mathematics. He has been with the Department of Insurance since 1989 and was promoted to Supervising Insurance Rate Analyst (Bureau Chief) in 2008. Ken has CPCU (Chartered Property Casualty Underwriters) and AIE (Insurance Regulatory Examiners) designations.

Saul Allweiss has been involved in the California Workers Compensation community for thirty five years. He has worked as an examiner, supervisor and hearing representative and since 1993 has worked as an attorney. Saul received his BA from the University of Illinois and his JD from the University of LaVerne. Saul has his own defense practice in the San Fernando Valley.

David Bellusci graduated from San Francisco State University with a BA and MA degrees. He began with the 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.

Otis Byrd graduated from San Francisco State University with a BA and MS. He began his workers' compensation career in 1977 as a rehabilitation counselor. He joined the Rehabilitation Unit in 1983, was promoted to Area Supervisor in 1993, and Unit Manager in 1995.

Ronnie Caplane graduated with Honors from the University of Wisconsin and received her JD from Hastings College of Law. Besides her law career, she has taught, is a published journalist and columnist, and is former President of the Piedmont USD Board of Education. Originally appointed a Workers' Compensation Appeals Board Commissioner in 2003, Ronnie was re-appointed in December 2009. In 2011 she was appointed WCAB Chairperson.

Colleen Casey has a BA degree from 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 named Barrister of the year in 1989 by the San Francisco Bar Association.

Thomas Clarke was appointed as a workers' compensation judge in 1997. He was promoted to Salinas Presiding Judge in 1999. Since 2008 has been Acting Regional Manager for North California.

Laura Clifford is the Executive Director and moving force behind the Employers' Fraud Task Force.

Raymond F. Correio retired as a Worker' Compensation Judge in September 2009 at the Marina Del Rey District Office. Currently, he is a senior associate at the Law Firm of Pearlman, Borska & Wax. He is a graduate of McGeorge School of Law in Sacramento. He has been an invited speaker on a variety of topics by CAAA, the California Defense Attorneys' Association, the DWC Educational Conference, the Workers' Compensation Section of the State Bar, and many other organizations.

Robert Cottle is a Diplomate in the American Board of Vocational Experts and Certified Disability Management Specialist. Dr. Cottle received his Ph. D. from USF in counseling psychology and MA from BYU in Organizational Behavior. He is used as a forensic vocational expert in personal injury, employment law, family law, and workers' compensation and has testified more than 1,300 times in various cases.

Therese da Silva graduated with a BA from the UC Berkeley and JD from the University Of Arizona College Of Law. Therese is a Staff Counsel III Specialist with State Compensation Fund's Pleasanton Legal Office. Before coming to State Fund, Therese worked in the area of labor and employment for 10 years and keeps up in this area by serving as the Chairperson for the Personnel Board for the City of Concord.

David De Paolo received his BA from San Diego State, JD from Pepperdine, and MBA from Cal Lutheran University. After 18 years of practicing law, David founded and grew the highly respected national news and educational service WorkCompCentral where he serves as President and Chief Executive Officer.

Presenters

Adam Dombchik received his BA from Penn State and JD from Southwestern School of Law. He began working for Gordon, Edelstein while attending law school at night, later joined as a full-time attorney, and became a partner in 2005. Adam is Past President of CAAA and currently serves on several committees. He regularly speaks on workers' compensation issues and routinely writes articles for trade journals.

Annalisa J. Faina has been with the State of California, Division of Workers' Compensation for over 31 years. She has been a Permanent Disability Evaluator with the Disability Evaluation Unit since 1988 and was appointed to the position of Northern California Area Supervisor in 2004.

Steven Feinberg, MD is owner of the Feinberg Medical Group in Palo Alto and a past president of the American Academy of Pain Medicine and a member of the board of directors and former president of the California Society of Industrial Medicine and Surgery.

James Fisher has a BA degree from George Washington University and JD from Golden Gate University School of Law. His workers' compensation career began in 1984 as a staff counsel for the Department of Industrial Relations. He was a private practice attorney from 1996 to 2000 when he returned to DIR.

Pamela Foust graduated from UCLA and earned her law degree from the University of West Los Angeles School of Law where she graduated cum laude. Judge Foust is the author California Lien Claims in Workers' Compensation Cases, 4th Edition and an adjunct professor at the University of West Los Angeles School of Law. Pam retired from DWC in December 2009 and returned to private practice as Director of Claims Legal Technical for Zenith Insurance.

Mark Fudem is an Acting Associate Chief Judge working to improve EAMS. He received his BA from UC Berkeley and JD from McGeorge School of Law. Mark worked for 23 years as an attorney in the private sector, and then was appointed a workers' compensation judge in Santa Rosa in 2004, Presiding Judge in Oakland in 2009, and his current position in 2011.

Mark E. Gearheart graduated from the University of Northern Colorado (BA) and Hastings College of Law (JD). He has practiced workers' compensation law since 1980 and started his own firm in 1992. He is a judge pro tempore and was the Past President of CAAA (East Bay Chapter).

Russell Glauber has practiced workers' compensation law since 1980. His BA is from USC and JD from Southwestern School of Law.

Scott Hague is the president of CAL Insurance Associates Inc. in San Francisco, California. He is the Founder of Small Business California. He is a past and present member of many insurance related groups including Agents and Brokers of the West and 2004 Lifetime Achievement Award issued by the San Francisco Small Business Network.

Susan Hamilton began her career in state service in 1978, and has worked as a judge, special assistant to the Administrative Director, presiding judge and deputy commissioner. She recently retired but will continue working for the division as an assistant to the AD. Susan has received many honors during her career, including being selected judge of the year by the Workers' Compensation Section of the California State Bar in 2005.

Joel Harter is Presiding Workers' Compensation Judge of the Sacramento District Office. He received his JD from Santa Clara University and was an applicant's attorney before the WCAB and the federal Office of Hearings and Appeals. His state career began in 1990 as a counsel for the Reconsideration Unit which led to subsequent promotions as a settlement referee, judge, presiding judge, and Acting Associate Chief Judge over the Northern California district offices.

Standiford Helm, MD is the medical director of The Helm Center for Pain Management, a comprehensive, multidisciplinary pain management center located in Orange County, California. Dr. Helm has subspecialty certification in Pain Medicine from the American Board of Anesthesiology, the American Board of Interventional Pain Physicians and the American Board of Pain Medicine. Dr. Helm went to Tufts University School of Medicine.

Presenters

David Henderson received a double BS from the University of Oregon, a MS from Emporia State University and a PhD from Oklahoma State University. He is currently a research specialist with the DWC. He taught and was a professor at Ohio State University.

William A. Herreras graduated from Loyola Marymount University with his BA and JD degrees both with honors. As an undergraduate he was LMU's Student Body President. Bill has held many executive level positions with CAAA including President from 2000-01 and argued seven cases before the California Supreme Court.

Jake Jacobsmeyer represented injured workers for 18 years before switching to the defense 17 years ago. He graduated from St. Mary's College (BA) and Santa Clara School of Law. He is influential in the comp arena having been on both sides of debate and serves as a frequent panelist on workers' comp forums, conferences, and symposiums.

Martha Jones received two undergraduate degrees from the University of Delaware, an MPA from Princeton University, and a PhD in Economics from the University of California Berkeley. She has taught at the university level and has worked for the State of California since 1999. She is the DWC Research Program Manager and is involved in a variety of projects using data from the Workers' Compensation Information System.

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 later became a Workers' Compensation Judge (1981) and the Presiding Judge (1988) at the Van Nuys board. He was the Assistant Chief of DWC from 1992 to 1995. He is currently a Regional Manager at DWC.

Christine King is the Audit Unit Manager. A graduate of University of Santa Clara, her state career began in 1966 as a State Fund adjuster. She was a private sector claims adjuster from 1984 to 1990. She has worked with the Audit Unit since its inception. Christine was awarded a DWC Outstanding Employee plaque at the 1998 Educational Conference.

Barry Knight graduated from Fresno State with a degree in business administration. His past experience includes work as an underwriter for two insurance carriers and as a claims adjuster for SCIF. He has worked for the Disability Evaluation Unit for 22 years and is currently the DEU Manager. Barry has been a member of both the 1997 and 2005 PDRS revision committees.

Robert Kutz received his BA from UC Berkeley and JD from University of Pacific, McGeorge School of Law. His state service began in 1978 with State Fund as legal counsel. He was the Presiding Workers' Compensation Judge of Eureka WCAB from 1992 to 1995 and was the Acting Assistant Chief of DWC from 1990 to 1992. He was a DWC Regional Manager. He is currently the Presiding Judge at Eureka.

Yvonne Lang is a partner with Pearlman, Borska & Wax, LLP. She is a graduate from UC Irvine and obtained her law degree from the University Of La Verne College Of Law. Ms. Lang previously worked as a workers' compensation claims specialist, obtaining her self-insurance certificate, WCCP designation, and CPDM.

James Latimer runs a busy workers' compensation law practice in Oakland. He graduated from BYU (BA) and Seattle University (JD).

Cora Lee graduated from Cal Poly with a BA. She has 24 years of workers' compensation experience. Cora has worked for the Audit Unit since its inception and was appointed Area Supervisor in 1996. Cora was awarded a DWC Outstanding Employee plaque at the 1996 Educational Conference.

Gary Lee is a partner with the law offices of Boxer & Gerson, LLP in Oakland, CA. He received his B.A degree from Pomona College and JD degree from the University of San Francisco. Gary is a certified specialist in workers compensation law and is a member of the Workers Compensation Executive Committee for the State Bar of California. He is also a member of the Bench and Bar Committee for the Oakland District Office and serves as the EAMS administrator for his firm.

Presenters

Paige Levy has been a workers' compensation judge at the Marina del Rey district office for nearly six years. Prior to this she was the managing partner of Levy & Associates representing employers and insurance carriers. She is a member of the State Bar Workers' Compensation Section Executive Committee. She is on the Board of Directors for the California Conference of Workers' Compensation Judges and is currently the secretary for the Conference. Paige obtained her JD degree in 1994 and was admitted to the California bar the same year.

George W. Mason received his JD from UC Berkeley (Boalt Hall). He was appointed as a Workers' Compensation Judge in 1982, was the Chief Deputy for DWC from 2001-03, and retired as Presiding Judge of the Oakland Appeals Board in 2004. In 1993, Judge Mason was honored by the Defense and Applicants' Attorneys Association as Northern California Workers' Compensation Judge of the Year. Judge Mason started a mediation and arbitration business after retiring.

Don Marshall is a Vice-President and National Director of the Anti-Fraud Program for Zenith Insurance. He has been involved in fraud investigations since 1991 and was appointed to the State's Fraud Assessment Commission in 2010.

John R. Morris is employed by the Los Angeles County District Attorney's Office specializing in fraud issues. He received his BA and JD from Loyola Marymount University.

Destie Overpeck was appointed Chief Counsel for DWC in 2005. She has worked as an attorney for DWC since April 2000. Destie graduated from UCLA cum laude in 1980 and from Hastings College of Law in 1983. She was admitted to the California state bar in 1983. Prior to the working at DWC, Destie was a partner in a civil practice law firm in San Francisco.

Kathy Patterson began her state career in 1982, became a Disability Evaluator in Sacramento in 1994, was promoted to DEU Area Supervisor in 2008, and was promoted to Medical Unit Manager in March 2012. She has extensive knowledge of EAMS and was the lead position at the EAMS Command Center.

Lynn Peterson has been involved in workers' compensation law since 1982. She is a graduate of the Whittier College School of Law.

Bernyce Peplowski, DO, MS She is currently the Medical Director at State Fund and has been practicing occupational medicine for 30 years. She was the Director of Occupational Medicine and Disability Management at Southern California Permanente Medical Group from 1994 through April 2006. She was the Chief Medical Officer and Executive Vice President at Zenith Insurance from May 2006 thru May 2010. Bernyce has been a QME and a committee member for the ACOEM and DWC Treatment Guides (MTUS) since their inception.

Cynthia Quiel started her legal career in 1977 when she began working as a legal secretary while attending court reporting school and later while attending law school. She started as an attorney in 1983 in private practice and in 1988 became a Deputy City Attorney for the City of Long Beach handling workers' compensation cases. She became a judge in 1990 and in December 2009 was appointed Presiding Judge of the Long Beach District Office.

Lilla J. Rados received her BA and JD from the University of Wisconsin at Madison. Her legal career started in 1990 as a State Fund staff counsel and includes work in the workers' compensation private practice. She became a judge in the Oakland district office in 2005. Lilla is currently the vice president of the California Workers' Compensation Conference of Judges.

Robert Rassp graduated from UC Irvine with two undergraduate degrees and from Loyola Law School. He has practiced workers' compensation and social security disability law since 1981 and is the principal of his own law firm. Mr. Rassp is also the chair of the Friends Research Institute's Institutional Review Board. He has been on the executive committee of the State Bar's Workers' Compensation Law Section (1998) and was the committee chair in 2000-2001.

James Robbins received his BA degree from UC Santa Barbara, MPA from Golden Gate University and JD from the University of Pacific, McGeorge School of Law. His DIR career began in 1984 as an attorney in the Office of the Director's Office. He transferred to DWC's Legal Unit in 1990.

Presenters

Scott Simon received his MA in Vocational Rehabilitation and is a Certified Rehab Counselor, Senior Disability Analyst, and Licensed Marriage and Family Therapist. In addition to providing a full range of vocational rehabilitation services, he has worked as a vocational expert in workers' compensation, social security, LTD, PI, and Subsequent Injury Fund.

Tess Snaer obtained a BS from the University of the Philippines and an MS from Texas A&M University. She joined the Division of Worker's Compensation in 1991. She served as UEF Claims Adjuster and I&A Officer before becoming a Disability Evaluator in 1994 and an Area Supervisor in 2000. Tess was a member of the Revision Committee for the 2005 Permanent Disability Rating Schedule.

Linda Stevenson received her BA (Psychology) and MA (Vocational Rehabilitation Counseling) from the University of Texas in Austin. She is the president of Connections in Santa Rosa and is a regional representative for Veterans Transition Services as well as professional certifications from CRC and CARRP. In her 40 years in counseling, Linda has made many vocational rehabilitation presentations.

Peggy Sugarman has her BA from UC Davis and MS from Cal State Sacramento. She has 25 years of workers' compensation experience including 8 years as the DWC Chief Deputy Administrative Director. She is currently Training Director for the Law Office of Grancell, Lebovitz, Stander, Reubens, and Thomas.

Alex Swedlow is the Executive Vice-President of Research at the California Workers' Compensation Institute and is the author of many articles on workers' compensation.

Andrew Valdivia is the president of White Sutton & Company Insurance Services in Santa Monica where he has spent his entire 25-year career. He has the Chartered Property Casualty Underwriters (CPCU) professional designation as well as the Associate in Risk Management (ARM) designation. He has been past president of the Independent Insurance Agents & Brokers of America and is currently an officer of the Insurance Brokers & Agents of the West where he previously served as past president.

Eugene E. Van de Bittner, Ph.D. is a certified rehabilitation counselor, a certified life care planner, and is a certified vocational expert by the American Board of Vocational Experts (ABVE). He served as president of the California Association of Rehabilitation and Reemployment Professionals (1983) and president of the ABVE (1997). He is the current Chair of the Legislative Committee for the California Chapter of the International Association of Rehabilitation Professionals.

Eric VonGeldern is employed by the Alameda County District Attorney's Office specializing in fraud issues. His BA is From UC Berkeley and JD is from the University Michigan School of Law.

Steve Wiesner, MD serves as the Physician Advisor for the Kaiser Permanente National Integrated Disability Management (IDM) Program. Steve obtained his medical degree from the University of Wisconsin. He has been a member of the American Academy of Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation, American College of Occupational and Environmental Medicine and the California Medical Association.

Bob Wong received his BA from the University of Washington and MPA from Pepperdine. His state work experience includes State Fund adjuster and sales representative, UEF adjuster and supervisor, Medical Unit supervisor, and rehabilitation consultant. He is currently the manager of the Information and Assistance Unit.

*DWC would like to
thank our 2012 Sponsors.*