

## 31<sup>st</sup> Annual DWC Educational Conference

### Presenter Biographies

#### **Anum Ali**

Anum Ali began working for DWC at the Sacramento office in 2015 as a Workers' Compensation Assistant. In 2016, she was promoted to a Workers' Compensation Consultant and recently has just been appointed the newly Northern Region Supervisor. Anum has been an expert resource for eight years to the workers' compensation community on permanent disability ratings and commutation calculations. She has a background in banking for a decade and graduated from Sacramento State University with a Bachelor's in English. Anum is a proud mom to her 7-year-old son and 2-year-old cat. In her free time, she loves volunteering at her son's school, traveling, watching basketball, doing crafts and just being silly with her babies.

#### **Lyn Asio Booz**

Lyn Asio Booz is the Chief of the Office of Self-Insurance Plans (OSIP). She joined the OSIP in July 2008 as the Northern California Audit Supervisor before being appointed as Chief in 2016. Prior to that, she was an auditor for the DWC's Audit Unit from 2004 through 2008. She worked for the Uninsured Benefit Trust Fund and the Subsequent Injuries Benefit Trust Fund for 12 years. She received an award for DWC Outstanding Employee of the Year in 1998, and for UEF Employee of the Year in 2000. Her background is in Molecular Cell Biology (emphasis on Developmental Anatomy and Physiology) and in Law.

#### **Gideon L. Baum**

Gideon L. Baum, Chief Operating Officer of the California Workers' Compensation Institute (CWCI), was recently hired by the Institute to assist in their research mission. Prior to CWCI, Gideon worked as the Vice President of Policy at the CA Hospital Association. Gideon also served as Staff Director for the Senate Committee on Labor, Public Employment and Retirement and served as a Committee Consultant with the State Senate for nearly 15 years. A graduate of UCLA and USC, Gideon is the proud husband of Erin Baum, who works for the University of California System, as well as the proud father of Clara Baum, the world's greatest 9-year-old.

#### **Barry Bloom**

Barry Bloom has extensive executive business experience with private and public entities & quasi-governmental groups, spanning the healthcare, education, retail, manufacturing, staffing, trucking, banking, telecommunications, hospitality, and high-tech industries. As a seasoned risk management consultant, Mr. Bloom couples this experience with his technical expertise in the fields of workers' compensation, absence management and disability, group health benefits, liability and risk management information technology.

Mr. Bloom has served as Founder and senior executive for national claims management firms specializing in workers' compensation, liability, and absence management claims administration, integrated with clinical managed care capabilities. He has also functioned as the principal consultant, National Practice Leader and project leader for private Fortune 500 companies, business consultant for various IT, Managed Care, Private Equity, TPA's & service companies, as well as public entities and smaller employers, engaging in risk management, mergers & acquisitions and human capital program reviews.

Mr. Bloom is currently one of the Editors-In-Chief of The California Workers Compensation Handbook "The Herlick" (31st through 42nd Editions) 2012-2023. He has been an instructor and guest speaker for

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the RIMS, NWDC, CCWC, IEA and ICA organizations and has had various articles and papers published, including in the Journal of Workers Compensation. He has been a member of various professional organizations including the Integrated Benefits Institute (IBI), Sales & Marketing Executives of San Francisco (SMESF), & the California Governor's Committee on Workers' Compensation. He is a Co-Founder of the nonprofit, The Transitions.

Barry has been a Coach for PONY Baseball in San Mateo since 2006 and is heavily involved as a volunteer for Kids Chance of America & Kids Chance of California.

### **Katie Boriolo**

Judge Katie Boriolo is the Presiding Judge of the Santa Rosa District Office and the Eureka Virtual Office. Judge Boriolo was a WCJ at the Santa Rosa District Office prior to becoming the Presiding Judge. She previously was a defense attorney in San Francisco then she worked as an applicant's attorney in Santa Rosa. Judge Boriolo is a Certified Specialist in Workers' Compensation. Judge Boriolo teaches Professional Responsibility at Empire College School of Law. She received the 40 under 40 Award in 2020 from the North Bay Business Journal.

### **Josephine K. Broussard**

Judge Broussard is a Workers' Compensation Judge at the Santa Ana Workers' Compensation Appeals Board. Prior to becoming a judge, she worked as a Senior Associate Attorney for Pearlman, Brown & Wax where she focused in the defense of complex workers' compensation claims including a focus in sports litigation.

Prior to attending law school, she worked in financial services as Assistant Vice President for Wells Fargo Personal Lines and Loans and Director of Compliance and Customer Contact Center for ING obtaining her securities license in Series 6, Series 26, and her Six Sigma Green Belt.

She attended the University of Dayton School of Law. In law school, she served as a Staff Writer and Business Manager for Law Review. She is a member of the California Lawyers Association and is co-chair of its education subcommittee. She also serves as Vice President on the Board of Governors of the Conference of California Workers' Compensation Judges (CCWCJ).

### **Eddy Canavan**

Eddy Canavan has 30 years of experience in California Workers' Compensation. He has worked in many roles including as a work comp examiner, manager and practice leader. He founded Alta Claims and Insurance service in 2019 providing consulting and education to the industry. Eddy holds his ARM and AIC designations and secured his bachelor's degree in business administration.

### **Benny Cheng**

Benny Cheng has been with the California Labor Commissioner's Office for over 24 years and is currently a Regional Manager with the Bureau of Field Enforcement Unit. He is also the statewide coordinator for the Bureau's Labor Enforcement Task Force. His experience includes being a field investigator and supervisor with the Bureau.

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### **David Chun**

Mr. Chun is a Partner in the firm's Central Valley & Central Coast office, covering Fresno, Bakersfield and San Luis Obispo. He has over 23 years of experience in advanced workers' compensation litigation and appeals, high level claims and risk consulting, as well as law firm management. He has extensively practiced in all aspects of defending self-insured employers and insurance carriers on workers' compensation, Labor Code Section 132a, and Serious and Willful matters.

Previously, Mr. Chun was a Managing Shareholder and Corporate Officer at a large state-wide defense firm. He managed a profit center and administrative staff while handling a full caseload and managing client accounts.

Mr. Chun is certified by the State Bar of California Board of Legal Specialization as a Certified Specialist in Workers' Compensation law. Additionally, Mr. Chun has lectured on various topics related to the practice of workers' compensation law and is available to lecture in accordance with clients' needs and requests. Mr. Chun also enjoys consulting with employers, insurance carriers, and third-party administrators on risk and claims matters through claims reviews, webinars, and in-person meetings. Mr. Chun obtained his bachelor's degree from Amherst College and his Juris Doctor from Santa Clara University School of Law. At Santa Clara, he was active as a certified law student in the Criminal Defense Clinic, providing pro bono representation to underprivileged criminal defendants.

Faith, relationships, genuine sincere communication, passion, creativity, loyalty, and inclusion are what drive Mr. Chun in his professional and personal life. In his spare time, Mr. Chun enjoys playing golf and spending time with his family. He also speaks conversational Spanish and Korean.

### **Tim Cloney**

Tim has more than 38 years of experience as a Police officer, Claims Adjuster, Insurance Investigator, Private Investigator and SIU Assistant Vice President of the Special Investigations Dept. After his retirement from the California Highway Patrol, Tim has handled multi-line investigations for Carriers and self-insured entities. Tim has worked with the California Department of Insurance developing training material as well as with several local District Attorney offices. Tim has been a guest speaker on insurance fraud topics for the Department of Insurance, the Employer's Fraud Task Force, local District Attorney offices and for the Federal Bureau of Investigation. Tim is currently the Assistant Vice President of the Special Investigation Unit for Zenith insurance and Tim was recently appointed by Governor Newsom to serve on the Fraud Assessment Commission.

Tim has a degree in Criminal Justice and is a Licensed Private Investigator in multiple states.

### **Sean Cooper**

Sean Cooper FCAS, MAAA is an actuary and insurance executive with more than 30 years of experience in the property/casualty industry with a focus on workers compensation. He is currently Executive Vice President and Chief Actuary at WCIRB California.

Prior to joining WCIRB, Sean worked at NCCI, where he oversaw the Legislative Analysis area and led several strategic initiatives, including the development of the transactional Indemnity Data Call. Sean's earlier responsibilities at NCCI included reserving for the NCCI-managed assigned risk pools, administration of NCCI's Actuarial Committee, ratemaking responsibility for several states, and actuarial support for Customer Operations and Product Management.

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Sean holds a B.S. in actuarial science from Florida A&M University, is a Fellow of the Casualty Actuarial Society and is a Member of the American Academy of Actuaries.

### **Raymond Correio**

Raymond Correio is a senior associate with Pearlman, Brown & Wax. Before joining the firm, he was a Workers' Compensation Judge assigned to both the Santa Monica and Marina Del Rey District Offices for approximately twelve years. He retired from the bench in 2009. Prior to taking the bench he was with his own firm. He is the author of widely used sports law and apportionment case law summaries. He has also authored numerous articles on a variety of topics published by LexisNexis and other legal publications. He has spoken on many occasions to help train physicians on apportionment at the CSIM's (California Society of Industrial Medicine) annual conferences as well as recently at the 2023 yearly California Orthopedic Association Conference. He has lectured on apportionment over the course of many years at the annual DWC Educational Conference held in Oakland and Los Angeles. He has also been an invited speaker on a variety of topics for the former Worker's Compensation Section of the State bar now the California Lawyers Association including their annual "Rating Extravaganza." In 2015, he helped to train all the workers' compensation judges in California on apportionment. In 2023 he also trained all the SCIF attorneys on apportionment at their yearly attorney training conference. He has also been an invited speaker by both the California Workers' Compensation Defense Attorney's Association as well as the California Applicant's Attorney's Association. In 2013 he was named defense attorney of the year by the Workers' Compensation Section of the State Bar. He is a member of the Retired California Worker's Compensation Judge's Association.

### **Genet Daba**

Genet Daba received her M.A. degree in Demography from Australian National University in Canberra, Australia. She worked as an Associate Expert in Demography for the United Nations and as Analyst for the International Union for the Scientific Study of Population in Belgium. She joined the Division of Workers' Compensation in 2000 and worked in the Managed Care, Medical Unit and is now serving as a Research Data Specialist in the Research Program.

### **Rajiv Das, MD, MPH**

Dr. Rajiv Das has worked within the CA workers compensation system for over 20 years. He currently serves as the medical director at UCSF Benioff Children's Hospital Oakland and a physician with the Feinberg Medical Group. He has served as medical director for two self-insured and administered employers, Safeway and the City of San Jose. He is board certified in occupational medicine, physical medicine and rehabilitation as well as pain medicine. He is also a QME.

### **Rupali Das, MD, MPH**

Dr. Rupali Das serves as Senior Vice President and California Medical Director at Zenith Insurance Company, where she collaborates to prevent work-related injuries and ensure appropriate delivery of care to ill or injured workers while balancing business process needs. Previously she served as the Executive Medical Director of the California DWC. She is board-certified in Internal Medicine and Preventive Medicine/Occupational Medicine, a Fellow of the American College of Occupational and Environmental Medicine, and Past President of the Western Occupational and Environmental Medical Association.

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### **Jill Dulich**

Jill Dulich received her B.S. and M.A. from California Poly in San Luis Obispo, CA and received her J.D. in 1981. She began her career in Workers' Compensation in 1974 and has worked in insurance, third party administration and self-insurance. Since 2015 Jill has been the Claims and Operations Manager for the California Self-Insurers' Security Fund. She also served as the Executive Director for the National Council of Self-Insurers from 2017 to 2021 and is the current Executive Director for the California Self-Insurers' Association. Jill retired from Marriott as Senior Director for Marriott Claims Services, in February 2015 after 32 years handling management of workers' compensation, auto and general liability losses for all Marriott managed operations within 8 western states and also managed 3 satellite offices in Hawaii, Oregon and Nevada.

She was a Commissioner on CHSWC, is on the Associate Member Council for the IAIABC. Jill is a frequent speaker and has presented at various organizations.

### **Steven Feinberg**

Dr. Steven Feinberg is a psychiatrist and pain medicine specialist practicing in Palo Alto. He is an Adjunct Clinical Professor and teaches at Stanford University Pain Service. He is a past president of the American Academy of Pain Medicine and the California Society of Industrial Medicine & Surgery. He served previously on the Western Occupational & Environmental Medical (WOEMA) Board of Directors. Dr. Feinberg received the 2021 WorkCompCentral Comp Laude Physician Professional of the Year Award. He is on the American Chronic Pain Association Board of Directors.

He is a senior author of the ACPA-Stanford Resource Guide to Chronic Pain Management. Dr. Feinberg serves as Panel Chair for the ACOEM Chronic Pain Guidelines. He serves on the ACOEM Opioid Guideline Panel. He is on the AMA Guides Newsletter Advisory Board, the AMA Guides Editorial Panel, and he is a member of the AMA Substance Use and Pain Care Task Force. Dr. Feinberg is an Expert Reviewer for the Medical Board of California and the U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration.

### **Christina Fenimore**

Christina Fenimore, CPCU, MPA has been the Manager of the DWC Audit and Enforcement Unit since 2018. She has been with the DIR DWC Audit unit since 2017. The DWC Audit and Enforcement unit regulates and audits insurance companies, self-insured employers, and third-party administrators that perform workers' compensation claims administrating services in California. Prior to the DIR, she worked as a Regulatory Compliance Officer at the California Department of Insurance for five years, and she regulated 11 lines of insurance specializing in workers' compensation and commercial lines. In addition, she worked at State Compensation Insurance Fund for 22 years. She has a M.P.A. degree and B.A. in Psychology from California State University, Northridge. She is an advisor for the CSUN MPA Advisory Board, and she is the 2023 President of the California El Camino CPCU Chapter, and on the Board since 2019.

### **Eugene Gogerman**

Judge Gogerman has been a workers' compensation judge since 2015. In 2022, he was appointed presiding judge of the San Francisco District Office. In addition to his regular responsibilities, he serves on the Board of Governors of the Conference of California Workers' Compensation Judges and has presented on various topics during training seminars for judges and the general public. Prior to becoming a judge, he practiced mainly workers' compensation and maritime law in the Bay Area. He is a 2002 graduate of the University of San Francisco School of Law and holds a degree in exercise physiology from the college's undergraduate division.

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### **Pia Hampton**

Pia Hampton is the DWC Disability Evaluation Unit (DEU) Manager. Pia started with the Department of Industrial Relation in 1992 and became a rater in the Disability Evaluation Unit in May 2002. Pia was trained on the 1978 and 1997 Permanent Disability Rating Schedules, at that time. In 2005, after the reform, Pia was trained on the AMA Guidelines and the 2005 PDRS and became an expert in the process. Needless to say, Pia is proficient in all 3 rating schedules and the AMA Guidelines. In addition to her years of experience and training, she really enjoys helping the community settle cases and working alongside raters as they develop their knowledge and skills. As DEU Manager Pia looks forward to helping the Unit continue to be a significant asset to the workers' compensation community.

### **Robert Hassett, MD**

Dr. Hassett serves as Senior Vice President of Medical Operations for the South Central Region and Northern California markets at Concentra and has responsibility for the medical operations of approximately 125 occupational medicine/urgent care centers and work sites in Texas, Louisiana, Oklahoma, Arkansas, New Mexico and the Northern California area. He received his undergraduate degree from the University of Notre Dame, attended medical school at Texas College of Osteopathic Medicine in Fort Worth and obtained his Master's in Public Health from the Medical College of Wisconsin. His career has spanned practices in academics, family practice, emergency medicine, urgent care, and for the past 29+ years occupational medicine. Additionally, Dr. Hassett performed Utilization Review part time for Concentra from 2003 to 2017. Dr. Hassett is board certified in both occupational medicine and family practice and has served on several committees for the Division of Workers Compensation including the former Medical Advisor Committee, Guidelines Committee, Performance Based Oversight and is currently a member of the Medical Quality Review Panel for Texas Department of Insurance. He also participates on the Quality Improvement panels for networks of several insurance carriers. Dr. Hassett is also the medical director for Six Flags and Hurricane Harbor in Arlington and was previously the medical director of employee health for Children's Medical Center in Dallas for 14 years.

### **Yvonne Hauscarriague**

Yvonne Hauscarriague has a BA degree from the University of California, Santa Barbara, and a JD from the University of San Francisco. After working in private practice as a civil litigation attorney, she began her workers' compensation career with State Compensation Insurance Fund serving as a defense attorney from 2005 to 2011, and an assistant chief counsel from 2011 to 2013. She transferred to DIR/DWC as Industrial Relations Counsel in late 2013 and served as the Acting Chief Counsel of the DWC from 2016 through late 2020. She joined the California Department of Insurance as staff counsel in its Government Law Bureau in December 2020.

### **Ilene Howard**

Ilene Howard is the Civil Penalty Supervisor for the Audit Unit. A graduate of University of California-Berkeley. She has 30 years of workers' compensation experience. Her state career began at State Compensation Insurance Fund as a Claims Adjuster. She joined the Division of Workers Compensation in 1997 as a Workers Compensation Consult at the UEBTF.

### **Alissa Huang**

Alissa Huang has a B.A. in Political Economy from the University of California, Berkeley. She joined the Division of Workers' Compensation in 2006 and has managed various programs within the Medical Unit such as Utilization Review, Independent Medical Review, and WCIS Research. She has 22 years of experience working at the Department of Industrial Relations.

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### **Meitong Jin**

Meitong Jin holds a Master's degree in Management Information Systems from China and was a professor of Economics at Changchun Science and Technology University, China. She also pursued her Ph.D. in Quantitative Business Analysis at the University of La Coruna, Spain. After moving to the US, she worked as a Business Analyst in the long-term care setting, then joined DIR in 2014 as a Research Data Specialist. She has more than 15 papers published in prestigious journals.

### **Mark Kahn**

Mark Kahn is currently employed by the law firm of Altman, Blitstein & Blinder as an Arbitrator, Mediator and Attorney and has been employed there since 2012. Prior to that, he was employed by Division of Workers Compensation as Associate Chief Judge from October 1994 through August 2012. Mr. Kahn served as the Chief Judge of the Division of Workers' Compensation from June 1991 through October 1994. Before this appointment, he was a Workers' Compensation Judge from February 1981 through October 1988 and a Presiding Judge from October 1988 through June 1991 at the Van Nuys District Office. He also serves as an editor for LexisNexis California Workers Compensation from 2009 to present. Mr. Kahn also served as an Adjunct Associate Professor of Law, Southwestern University School of Law, Los Angeles California from August 1988 to 2001 and an Instructor in Workers' Compensation, Pasadena City College, Pasadena, California from February 1989 to 1994, part time. He has been a lecturer for various groups and associations including the California Continuing Education of the Bar, Source Seminars, California Applicants Attorney Association, California Defense Attorney Association, and Workers Compensation Central. He was a member of the Workers' Compensation State Bar Executive Committee. He has been a regular presenter at the Division of Workers' Compensation convention. Judge Kahn was a California Applicants' Attorneys Association Judge of the Year and the Latino Compensation judge of the Year. He received his Jurist Doctor degree in Law from Southwestern University School of Law, Los Angeles, California.

### **Yvonne Lang**

Yvonne Lang is a partner with Pearlman, Brown & Wax, LLP, which specializes in the defense of workers' compensation claims. Yvonne graduated from the University of California at Irvine (B.A.) in Political Science. She obtained her J.D. from the University of La Verne College of Law. During her career as a claim's examiner, Yvonne's work included fraud investigation and assisting the National Insurance Crime Bureau and the Los Angeles and Ventura County DA offices. Yvonne was awarded Workers' Compensation Defense Attorney of the Year in 2023 by the California Lawyers Association.

### **Debbie Lauger**

Debbie Lauger is a graduate of Sacramento State University with more than 40 years of medical administration experience. For the past 25 years, her experience has focused exclusively on California workers' compensation. She has been involved in managing work comp clinics, billing and coding of work comp claims, and as a lien hearing representative. She joined Maximus in 2013 as part of the team implementing the IMR contract. She is currently the Director of Operations for both IMR and IBR.

### **Kathy T. Le, MD, MPH**

*[to be added]*

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### **Paige Levy**

Paige Levy is the Chief Judge of the Division of Workers' Compensation. Before this appointment, she was a Workers' Compensation Judge (2005) and Presiding Judge (2012) at the Marina Del Rey district office. She was Chair of the Workers' Compensation State Bar Executive Committee for the 2013-2014 term and served on the committee for 5 years. Over the past eighteen years, she has spoken on numerous topics, including the application of the AMA Guides, case law update, utilization review, WCAB policy and procedure, ethics, specialization exam prep, liens, and litigation tips for attorneys. She is a regular presenter for the Division of Workers' Compensation case law update and the women's panel. Judge Levy was the 2013 California Applicants' Attorneys Association (CAAA) Judge of the Year, the 2012 WorkCompCentral Magna Comp Laude Award Winner, a 2014 DWC Employee of the Year recipient, the State Bar Workers' Compensation Section Judge of the Year in 2016, and the LatinoComp Judge of the Year in 2019. She became a certified workers' compensation specialist in 2000. Before taking the bench, Paige was the managing partner of Levy & Associates. She received her undergraduate degree in pre-law from San Diego State University, and her J.D. degree from Whittier Law School in 1994, where she graduated with honors.

### **Justin Litvack**

Justin Litvack has been practicing in the field of workers' compensation for 19 years. He is presently an applicant attorney and managing partner of Boxer + Gerson, one of the largest applicant workers' compensation law firms in the state. Justin maintains a full case load and is responsible for day-to-day management of the firm's attorneys and staff members. In terms of his practice, he primarily represents union members of all types including professional athletes, truck drivers and food workers. Justin prides himself on being creative in his case management but has handled numerous trials and appeals. He also is a former defense attorney, so he brings that perspective with him to court.

### **Elda Llamas**

Elda Llamas is the Workers' Compensation Manager for the Division of Workers' Compensation (DWC). In 1989, she began her workers' compensation career with State Compensation Insurance Fund, as a Workers' Comp Insurance Tech, setting up new workers' compensation policies. In 1990, she was promoted to claims adjuster, administering benefits to employees who were injured at work. In 1997, she started working for the Division of Workers' Compensation as an Information & Assistance officer assisting pro per injured workers. In 1998, she transferred to the DWC's Information Service Center as a Workers' Compensation Consultant assisting callers statewide with workers' compensation process. In 2005, she was promoted to supervising Workers' Compensation Consultant for the Information Service Center. And in 2016, she was promoted to Workers' Compensation Manager for the DWC Information Service Center.

### **Nikki Mehrpoo**

Nikki Mehrpoo is a partner with Pearlman, Brown & Wax, LLP, specializing in the defense of workers' compensation claims. Nikki has advocated for California's injured workers and immigrants from all over the world. Ms. Jacobson began her legal career in 1997 after earning her law degree from Pepperdine University School of Law. Los Angeles Magazine, Super Lawyers, Avvo.com, and Martindale Hubbell have recognized her for their legal knowledge and experience. She is also a Professor of Law at West Los Angeles College and a Retired Workers' Compensation Administrative Law Judge.

### **Raymond Meister**

Raymond Meister has served as executive medical director for DWC since June 2016 and was an associate medical director since 2014. Prior to joining DWC, Dr. Meister served as public health medical



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officer at the California Department of Public Health, Occupational Health Branch, from 2000 to 2014. Ray is boarded in Occupational Medicine having done his residency at UCSF. He earned a Master of Public Health degree from the University of California, Berkeley School of Public Health and a Doctor of Medicine degree from the University of Southern California School of Medicine. He has been a faculty member at the University of California, San Francisco since 1998 where he is a clinical professor.

### **Michelle Meyer**

Michelle Meyer is Director of Continuing Education at the Center for Occupational and Environmental Health (COEH), a NIOSH supported Education and Research Center (ERC). Prior to joining COEH in 2017, Michelle worked at multiple tech start-ups in the San Francisco Bay Area, and at the Atlantic States Legal Foundation in Syracuse, New York. She graduated from the State University of New York College of Environmental Science and Forestry in 2013.

### **William Murphy**

Prior to joining the Department of Industrial Relations Office of the Director – Anti-Fraud Unit, William Murphy was a prosecutor for 22 years. Mr. Murphy supervised the Insurance Fraud Unit at the Contra Costa County District attorney's office. Mr. Murphy has investigated and prosecuted hundreds of claimant fraud, premium fraud and medical billing fraud cases. Mr. Murphy joined the AFU in May of 2021.

### **Minh Nguyen, DO, MPH, MHA, MBA** *(Not presenting in Los Angeles)*

Dr. Minh Nguyen is currently the Chief Medical Officer for Agile Occupational Medicine, a medical group he co-founded. He is board-certified occupational medicine and has over 20 years of executive and physician leadership experience. Dr. Nguyen is a Fellow of American College of Occupational and Environmental Medicine (FACOEM). He is Past President of the Osteopathic Physicians and Surgeons of California and currently serves on the Board of Directors for the California Coalition of Workers' Compensation (CCWC). He is an adjunct clinical faculty member of Touro University College of Osteopathic Medicine in Vallejo, CA. Dr. Nguyen is certified as a Medical Review Officer (MRO), a Medical Expert Reviewer for the Osteopathic Medical Board of California, and a Civil Surgeon.

### **Bhavesh Robert J. Pandya**

Dr. Pandya has been a physician in California since 1996 and is Board Certified in Internal Medicine and Occupational and Environmental Medicine and has been certified in performing medical legal evaluations for the past 20 years.

He is a Qualified Medical Evaluator for the Division of Workers Compensation (DWC) for the State of California and currently serves on the DWC's QME Report Quality Committee.

He currently is a Physician Lead at Kaiser Permanente for the Southern California Permanente Medical Group where he has also served as Chief of Service in the past.

He has been an Expert Reviewer for the Medical Board of California for the past 10 years.

He was selected to serve on the American Board of Preventive Medicine's National Taskforce in 2021-2022 as a Subject Matter Expert in Occupational Medicine to help update the content for the ABPM Occupational Medicine Board Examination.

He has served as a Director on the International Academy of Independent Medical Evaluators (IAIME) Board of Directors since 2018.

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He is also a Fellow of ACOEM, ACP and IAIME and a Certified Medical Legal Evaluator (CMLE). He has been an academic preceptor for Occupational & Environmental Medicine residents at UCLA, UC Irvine and University of Pennsylvania in the past.

He enjoys staying active, traveling and volunteering for Humanitarian non-profit groups in his free time.

### **George Parisotto**

George Parisotto is the Administrative Director of the Division of Workers' Compensation, appointed by Governor Brown in October 2017 and reappointed by Governor Newsom in September 2022. Mr. Parisotto received a B.A. from Loyola Marymount University in Los Angeles, and a J.D. from the University of California College of the Law, San Francisco. Following law school, Mr. Parisotto became an associate with the Thierman Law Firm, a labor law firm in San Francisco representing employers and management. He joined the Division of Workers' Compensation as a staff counsel in 1998, and later rejoined the Division in 2007 after spending three years in Seattle, Washington, with the U.S. Department of Labor's Energy Employees Occupational Illness Compensation Program. Prior to his current position, he was the Acting Chief Counsel for the Division's Legal Unit.

### **Derek Park**

David Park worked with community-based organization assisting workers in the low wage industry from 2001 to 2006. He joined the Bureau of Field Enforcement (BOFE) of the California Labor Commissioner's office in 2006, which was the start of work on workers' compensation related matters. He investigated various types of workers' compensation related cases and currently oversees BOFE offices in Southern California.

### **Kevin Payne**

Kevin Payne, MD attended Lake Erie College of Osteopathic Medicine in Erie, PA. He did his residency training in public health/preventive medicine and occupational/environmental medicine within the Army's medical program in the Washington, DC area. After training, he has held positions in a number of settings to include the military, university, and corporate environments. He now serves as the Maximus medical director for the CA IMR program.

### **Mark Pew**

Mark Pew, WorkCompCollege.com founding partner and Provost, is an award-winning international speaker, author and jurisdictional advisor in Workers' Compensation. The RxProfessor has focused on the intersection of chronic pain and appropriate treatment since 2003. Mark created "[Qualified Medical Intervention](#)" that won a 2012 Business Insurance Innovation Award. He received WorkCompCentral's Magna Comp Laude award in 2016, IAIABC's Samuel Gompers Award in 2017, "Top 100 Healthcare Leader" by IFAH in 2021 and the Health 2.0 Outstanding Leadership award in 2022. He is co-founder of *The Transitions* and is on the Advisory Boards of Harvard MedTech, Simple Therapy, and Goldfinch Health.

### **Mark Phillips**

Mark Phillips is the Assistant Vice President of Workers' Compensation Claims for Amerisure. Mr. Phillips is responsible for technical claims outcomes, including loss and expense in direct relation to the company's strategic objectives, identifying and implementing loss cost management programs, managing claim handling strategy on high-exposure and highly complex claims, and reserve and settlement authority, as well as oversight of third-party administrator programs. Mr. Phillips also partners with other Claims leaders in establishing goals and objectives for Workers' Compensation

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claims initiatives. Mr. Phillips has several years of insurance experience and previously served as Director of Workers' Compensation Claims at Vanliner Insurance Company, holding responsibility for leading the Workers' Compensation department in staffing, claim management, nursing consultants, and operational staff. He also was responsible for identifying claim and industry trends, ensuring the profitability of his department. Prior to his time at Vanliner, Mr. Phillips worked at AIG and served in law enforcement. He earned his Bachelor of Science from Southeast Missouri State University and a Master of Business Administration from Missouri Baptist University.

### **Ted Richards**

Ted Richards is Chief Counsel at the Division of Workers' Compensation. His prior workers' compensation experience includes employment as a California Workers' Compensation Judge, as an applicants' attorney, and at a Workers' Compensation defense firm where he was a partner. He received his Bachelor of Arts degree from Stanford University and his Juris Doctorate degree from University of California College of the Law, San Francisco. He has spoken frequently at industry conferences and events.

### **Nicole Richardson**

Nicole Richardson started her career as a workers' compensation defense attorney and is currently working as an attorney for the Department of Industrial Relations/Division of Workers' Compensation. Nicole specializes in the qualified medical evaluator process, MPN and MTUS. She received her B.A. from University of California, Berkeley and her JD from Santa Clara University.

### **Lucy Shannon**

Lucy Shannon is responsible for content delivered on the MDGuidelines platform. In this role, she leads internal and external teams of authors, editors, researchers, and medical professionals in the creation of Health Advisor content and Clinical Practice Guidelines. She is also responsible for content found in MDGuidelines products and tools, such as Formulary and Crosswalks. Lucy regularly partners with clients on custom deliverables of content and data to meet business, statutory, and regulatory requirements.

### **Mark Skarakis**

Mark Skarakis is a graduate of San Diego State University. His state service began as an EDD hearing representative. His DWC career has included stints at as a UEF claims representative (1996 – 1998), Audit and Enforcement Unit compliance officer (1998 – 2002), SCIF claims representative (2002 – 2004), before rejoining the Audit and Enforcement Unit in 2004 where he works as a supervisor in northern California.

### **Tyrone Spears**

Tyrone Spears is the Chief of the Workers' Compensation Division at the City of Los Angeles. Tyrone is responsible for managing the day-to-day operations of the Workers' Compensation programs. Tyrone was recently appointed by Governor Newsome to the Fraud Assessment Commission.

Tyrone holds a Bachelor of Science in Human Resource Management, Executive MBA in Management, and a Doctorate in Theology. Professionally, he holds the Workers' Compensation Claims Professional (WCCP) designation from the Insurance Educational Association and is certified by the Department of Industrial Relations, Self-Insurance Plans, as a Workers' Compensation Administrator.

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### **Jamie Spitzer**

Jamie Spitzer is the Division of Workers' Compensation's Associate Chief Judge for southern California. She was formerly the presiding judge of the Anaheim Workers' Compensation Appeals Board, where she served as a judge from 2005 to 2012. Jamie's law career began in 1992, as an attorney and later partner with Ufkes, Bright & Spitzer. A graduate of Cal State Fullerton, she earned her law degree at Whittier College.

### **Raja Sundaram**

As the CEO of Plethy, Inc., Raja is passionate about reshaping the patient experience through a digital health hybrid care model that augments care providers at home. He is a believer in approaching patients holistically through bio-psycho-social data-driven patient engagement and analytics to personalized care plan, accelerate recovery, and gain sustainable cost reduction. Raja is a transformational leader, skilled in re-imagining and re-shaping the customer experience, developing and implementing digital solutions, and consistently driving growth. His success comes from his ability to align and evolve organizations, harness the power and speed of partnerships and channels, transform business models, and craft a relevant products and services portfolio from incubation to scale. Raja was previously a Vice President at Cisco Systems responsible for sales through alliances and channels. His experience spans multiple industries that include Virgin Hyperloop One, Eseye, and Boston Consulting. Raja has held senior management roles in sales, business development, marketing, product management, customer service, and engineering. Raja also sits on advisory boards of various startups that span various industries including cyber security. Raja holds an M.B.A. from the University of California at Berkeley and a M.S. in Electrical Engineering from Oklahoma State University.

### **River Sung**

River Sung works at the Division of Workers' Compensation as lead counsel for the UR (Utilization Review), IMR (Independent Medical Review), and HCO (Health Care Organizations) programs. She has a B.A. from the University of Hawaii and obtained her law degree from the University of the Pacific, McGeorge School of Law. She entered workers' compensation law in 2012 after working for several years as a healthcare attorney in both the private and public sectors.

### **Alex Swedlow**

Alex Swedlow is President of the California Workers' Compensation Institute. Mr. Swedlow has more than 30 years of experience in health services research, public policy analysis, and data development and has published numerous research studies in the areas of managed medical and disability systems, evidence-based medicine, pharmaceutical utilization, access to care, return-to-work and key performance indicators of California workers' compensation reform. In 2013 he was named President of the Institute after having served as Executive Vice-President of Research for 13 years.

### **Noah Tempkin**

Noah Tempkin has been the Presiding Judge of the DWC Sacramento district office since November 2021. Prior to that, Judge Tempkin had been a workers' compensation judge in the Sacramento District Office since 2008. Before his appointment to the bench, Judge Tempkin was an applicant attorney at Farrell, Fraulob and Brown in Sacramento. He received his JD from Willamette University College of Law in Salem, Oregon and was admitted to the California State Bar in 2000. He received a B.S. degree in psychology from the College of William and Mary in Williamsburg, Virginia.

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### **Kendra Welker**

Kendra Welker, Policy Director IMR/IBR is a graduate of West Virginia University and West Virginia University College of Law. She has 5+ years of workers' compensation experience, formerly working as an Associate Attorney, specializing in workers' compensation defense. She recently joined Maximus in April of 2023, and is currently the Policy Director for both IMR and IBR.

### **Winslow West**

Winslow West started his career as a civil lawyer in private practice. He went on to become a workers' compensation defense attorney, and eventually made his way to the Division of Workers' Compensation. He is currently one of the QME Discipline Attorneys for the Department of Industrial Relations/Division of Workers' Compensation.

### **Sara Widener-Brightwell**

Sara Widener-Brightwell is the California Workers' Compensation Institute's (CWCI) Senior Vice President, Claims and General Counsel. Before joining CWCI in 2022 she had almost 35 years of experience in the California workers' compensation system as a claims adjuster, defense attorney, and California claims training and compliance manager. Ms. Widener-Brightwell received her undergraduate degree in Business Administration from Colorado State University and her law degree from San Joaquin College of Law.

### **Erin Wintersteen**

Erin Wintersteen is a founding partner of Wintersteen | Casarez. She has practiced in the field of Workers' Compensation for over 18 years as a defense attorney. She is a California Bar-Certified Specialist in Workers' Compensation Law.

She has always worked on the defense side of workers' compensation, valuing the unique challenges that employers and insurance companies face as they navigate the business aspects of overbroad or fraudulent claims. In becoming a business owner herself, she especially feels this pain, and this drives her to ensure that all attorneys at WC Law Corp act with the clients' goals in mind at all times. In her prior legal experience, she has served as associate attorney, partner, chief marketing officer, and managing partner of various medium to large size workers' compensation defense firms. Her prior experience at other law firms means that she has seen what works and what doesn't work. Bringing that knowledge to the table, she has helped develop the firm's policies and procedures to ensure our clients will get the most responsive, cutting-edge and functional "bang" for their already taxed "buck."

Ms. Wintersteen received her Juris Doctor degree cum laude from the University of the Pacific McGeorge School of Law in Sacramento, where she was on the Dean's List, and was a member of the Traynor Honor Society and the American Constitution Society. She was a Witkin Award winner and was on the McGeorge Law Review staff. Ms. Wintersteen received her undergraduate degree in Psychology from the University of California, Davis, where she was on the Dean's List.

Ms. Wintersteen is currently an advisory member of the Executive Committee of the Workers' Compensation Section, California Lawyers Association (CLA). She is also a member of the Women of Workers' Compensation community (WOW). Formerly, she served as a board member and president of the Valley Industrial Claims Association (VICA), which provides continuing education opportunities for the Sacramento workers' compensation community. She is still an active member of VICA as well as the Association of Workers' Compensation Professionals (AWCP). Ms. Wintersteen was featured in

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Sacramento Magazine in 2017, 2018, 2020 and 2021 as one of the city's top workers' compensation attorneys. She was nominated for the 2020 and 2021 Comp Laude award for Best Defense Attorney. She has two teenage boys, and they take up the rest of her free time. Their education is very important to her, which led her to create and run an online support group for parents of children with special education needs in the West Sacramento community.