



The 33rd Annual Educational Conference

Oakland Marriott City Center

March 5 - 6, 2026

Los Angeles Airport Marriot

March 19 - 20, 2026

In association with the International Workers' Compensation Foundation



Day 1	East Hall	Grand Ballroom A-B-C-D	Junior Ballroom	Grand Ballroom E-F-G-H
9:30 - 12:30 PM	Registration – Grand Ballroom Foyer			
12:30 - 1:00 PM	Welcoming and Opening Presentation – East Hall DWC Chief Judge Paige Levy and DIR Director Jennifer Osborn			
1:00 - 2:00 PM	DWC Update ⚡ <i>Richardson</i>	Audit Update and Trends for 2026 <i>Fenimore, Howard, Torres, Bajaj & Gunter</i>	Case Law Update I ⚡ <i>Levy & Kahn</i>	Unique Aspects of Psychiatric Claims ⚡ <i>Kirz, Dombchik</i>
2:15 - 3:15 PM	How Disability Evaluation Unit (DEU) Addresses Some Spinal and Upper Extremity Misconceptions ⚡ <i>Hampton, Ali (Oak) & Ha (LA)</i>	Risk Managers' Roundtable: Aligning Incentives with Outcomes in Workers' Compensation <i>Zachry, Robinson & Novoa</i>	Case Law Update II ⚡ <i>Levy & Kahn</i>	Good, Bad, and Ugly of Artificial Intelligence in Health Care and Workers' Compensation ⚡ <i>Brigham, Castro, Almazan, Pew (Oak) & Wilson (LA)</i>
3:30 - 4:30 PM	Social Media, Surveillance, and Early Intervention: Modern Workers' Compensation Claims Solutions ⚡ <i>Zachry & Bartholomew</i>	Stakeholder Collaboration on Return to Work in Workers' Compensation ⚡ <i>Spears & Rios</i>	Top Litigation Tips <i>Gogerman & DeWeese</i>	Apportionment-Discussion of Statutes, Case Law and Tips for Developing Material Evidence ⚡ <i>Christine & Marcus</i>
4:30 - 6:00 PM	Reception – No Host Bar -- East Hall			

Day 2	East Hall	Grand Ballroom A-B-C-D	Junior Ballroom	Grand Ballroom E-F-G-H
8:30 - 9:30 AM	State of the Art: AI in Workers' Compensation - National Perspective ⚡ <i>Brigham, Almazan, Wen, Tainton, Pew (Oak) & Wilson (LA)</i>	A Blueprint for Claims Excellence (Workers' Compensation Claims Best Practices) <i>Guibert, Sousa, Jokerst (Oak), Daniels (LA), Taylor (LA) & Brewer (Oak)</i>	Case Law Update I ⚡ <i>Levy & Kahn</i> √	Rx for the Future: Medical Perspectives on Workers' Comp Challenges ⚡ <i>Das & Nguyen</i>
9:45 - 10:45 AM	Current Research Findings in the California Workers' Compensation System <i>Baum, Widener-Brightwell (Oak) & Carstensen</i>	Before and After Patterson: Rodriguez - Post Award Medical Care and UR/IMR Matters <i>Fischer & Fudem</i>	Case Law Update II ⚡ <i>Levy & Kahn</i> √	Med/Legal Report Writing ⚡ <i>Da Silva, Rassp & Feinberg</i>
11:00 – 12:00 PM	The Great California Workers' Compensation Game Show ⚡ <i>Baum, Widener-Brightwell (Oak) & Swedlow (LA)</i>	Utilization Review Fundamentals and Upcoming Reforms ⚡ <i>Sung & Govindarao</i>	Women in Law and Business: Great Leaders and their Experiences, Inspirational Stories <i>Levy, Osborne, Asio Booz, Garcia-Brower & Lee</i>	The Impact of Degenerative & Comorbid Conditions in Workers' Compensation Claims ⚡ <i>Tang (Oak), Sousa, Patel (LA) & Guibert</i>
12:00 – 1:00 PM	LUNCH – West Hall			
1:15 – 2:15 PM	The Explosion of Cumulative Trauma Claims – What Is Happening, and Why? ⚡ <i>Pollak, Frost & Eaton</i>	Ground Truth in AI: Ensuring Trust, Explainability, and Effective Human-AI Collaboration in Workers' Compensation ⚡ <i>Hanson</i>	Professional Conduct and Best Practices Handling Workers' Compensation Cases and Medical-Legal Evaluations ⚡ <i>Spitzer & Pandya</i>	Chronic Pain Evaluation and Treatment ⚡ <i>Hegwer, Post, Feinberg & Bokarius</i>

Day 2	East Hall	Grand Ballroom A-B-C-D	Junior Ballroom	Grand Ballroom E-F-G-H
2:30 – 3:30 PM	<p>Fraud in the Workers' Compensation System</p> <p><i>Murphy & Marrone</i></p>	<p>Understanding Claims for Death Benefits</p> <p>⚡</p> <p><i>Dehn & Ozeda</i></p>	<p>Alternative Dispute Resolution (ADR) Labor Codes 3201.5 & 3201.7</p> <p>What Is It? How Will It Benefit You?</p> <p><i>Nobriga, Friedrichsen, Siemers, Shogren-Lies & Guerrero</i></p>	<p>What's New in the MTUS-ACOEM Guidelines: Updates, Tools, and Practical Insights</p> <p>⚡</p> <p><i>Shannon, Besh & Israel</i></p>

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