

2026 Conference Agenda

Day 1	
Session 0	
11:00 a.m.- 11:30 a.m.	Spring Lake Pre-conference bonus session: Workers' Comp 101 , Stephanie Saldana
11:00 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.	Registration
Session 1	
12:30 p.m. –12:40 p.m.	Opening and Welcome Texas Workers' Compensation Commissioner Jeff Nelson
12:40 p.m. – 1:40 p.m.	Veramendi F-J General Session: Taking Care of Injured Employees (and Your Budget): Why the "Nice" Claims Cost Less , Melissa Steger; Stuart Colburn
1:40 p.m. – 2:00 p.m.	Break
Session 2	
2:00 p.m. – 3:00 p.m.	Veramendi F-J Preparing WCI Data to Prevent Future Claims , John DeLaHunt Spring Lake Building Blocks of Ethics , Anastasia Settle
3:00 p.m. – 3:20 p.m.	Break
Sessions 3	
3:20 p.m. – 4:20 p.m.	Veramendi F-J Elevating Data Quality: How DWC Uses EDI to Improve Service , Martha Luevano Spring Lake Provider Fraud Schemes and Trends , Gordon Oard
4:20 p.m. – 5:30 p.m.	Welcome Reception

Day 2	
Session 1	
8 a.m. – 8:30 a.m.	Registration
8 a.m. – 8:30 a.m.	Continental Breakfast
8:30 a.m. – 9:30 a.m.	Veramendi F-J General Session: Regulator Roundtable: Key Updates from DWC, Commissioner Jeff Nelson; Erica De La Cruz; Mary Landrum; Dan LaBruyere; Gerri Thomas
9:30 a.m.- 9:50 a.m.	Break
Session 2	
9:50 a.m. – 10:50 a.m.	Veramendi F-J The Rise of Boutique Pharmaceuticals, Julie Black and Courtney Deck Spring Lake AMA Guides in Practice: How Rating Outcomes Differ Between the 4th and 6th Editions, Dr. Mark Melhorn
10:50 a.m. –11: 10 a.m.	Break
Session 3	
11:10 a.m. – 12:10 p.m.	Veramendi F-J Reel Ethics: Exploring Behavioral Boundaries in Workers' Compensation, Kara Mace (moderator); John Molinar; Dan LaBruyere; Fabiola Flores Spring Lake REPEAT- AMA Guides in Practice: How Rating Outcomes Differ Between the 4th and 6th Editions, Dr. Mark Melhorn
12:10 p.m. –1:10 p.m.	Lunch
1:10 p.m. – 1:40 p.m.	Dessert with Vendors (Exhibit Hall)
Session 4	
1:40 p.m. – 2:40 p.m.	Veramendi F-J Legislative and Case Law Update, Jennifer Hopens; Mitchell Kors Spring Lake REPEAT- Elevating Data Quality: How DWC Uses EDI to Improve Service, Martha Luevano
2:40 p.m. – 3:00 p.m.	Break
Session 5	
3:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m.	Veramendi F-J All About OSHA: Mission, Enforcement, Inspection Process, Outreach, Monica Camacho Spring Lake Top Ten Subrogation Mistakes Workers' Compensation Carriers Should Avoid, Matthew Greider; Gary Wickert