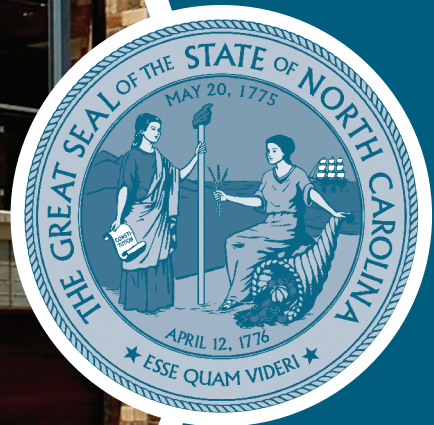


The **31st Annual**
North Carolina
Workers' Compensation
Educational Conference

Wednesday - Friday
October 14 - 16, 2026



Raleigh Marriott
Crabtree Valley Hotel

4500 Marriott Drive
Raleigh, North Carolina 27612



October 14 - October 16, 2026

The 31st Annual North Carolina Workers' Compensation Conference will be held on Wednesday, October 14 - Friday, October 16, 2026, at the Raleigh Marriott Crabtree Valley Hotel. The North Carolina Industrial Commission organizes this program with the goal of bringing its stakeholders together to learn about and discuss current and noteworthy workers' compensation trends and topics, including medicolegal issues and Industrial Commission processes and procedures. This year's presenters include Industrial Commission Section Heads, Deputy and Special Deputy Commissioners, plaintiff and defense attorneys, adjusters, healthcare providers, rehabilitation professionals, and mediators.

Who Should Attend?

Employers, insurance adjusters, self-insurers, third-party administrators, safety and human resource managers, plaintiff and defense attorneys, paralegals, healthcare providers, medical and vocational rehabilitation professionals, and mediators are encouraged to attend. Anyone with a professional interest in the workers' compensation system in North Carolina will receive valuable information at the Conference.

Continuing Education Credits

Application is pending for up to 12 hours of continuing education credits for the following occupations: attorneys (CLE), paralegals (CPE), insurance adjusters (CE), human resources professionals (SHRM), and rehabilitation providers (CDMS and CCM); and 1 hour of credit for mediators (CME). Attorney CLE credits include up to 2 hours Ethics/Professional Responsibility, 1 hour Technology, and 1 hour Professional Well-Being. Pending credits for rehabilitation providers and adjusters include 1 hour Ethics. COHNs, CRRNs, and any other discipline will be provided a certificate of completion for credit submission, upon request. For adjusters, the Conference sessions are grouped into 3 courses. **Adjusters must complete all sessions in each course to receive credits for that course.**

Adjusters also should be aware that the North Carolina Department of Insurance does not award credit to non-resident adjusters with North Carolina licenses unless they are domiciled in North Carolina as an adjuster. For general information concerning licensing and CE requirements for adjusters in North Carolina, please contact the North Carolina Department of Insurance at (919) 807-6800.

Materials

Attendees will be able to download the materials prior to the Conference. Please look for the link in the email announcement you will receive from compconference@iwcf.us when the materials are available. Please provide an accurate and legible email address unique to each individual registrant when you register to ensure receipt of instructions and Conference communications. Also, please add compconference@iwcf.us to your email "safe sender" list as a trusted contact.

Hotel Information

The host hotel for our Conference is

RALEIGH MARRIOTT CRABTREE VALLEY HOTEL

4500 Marriott Drive, Raleigh, NC 27612

Conference Rate: \$204.00/night · Rate Cut-Off Date: September 22, 2026 (unless sold out sooner)

Note: The Conference group rate will not be available if the room block sells out prior to the cut-off date, so make your reservations early. Click [here](#) to book your group rate online, or call 1-800-236-2427 and identify yourself as attending the 31st Annual North Carolina Workers' Compensation Educational Conference.

The Raleigh Marriott Crabtree Valley Hotel provides Conference attendees with easy access to the hundreds of retailers and dozens of restaurants and other eateries located at the Crabtree Valley Mall. Additionally, parking at the hotel is free and easily accessible.

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ATTN: State employees:
Contact IWCF for instructions.

Registration Fees: \$425.00 per person paid on or before August 31, 2026

\$450.00 per person paid after August 31, 2026, but on or before September 30, 2026

\$500.00 per person paid on or after October 1, 2026

Registration fees include sessions, access to presentation materials and exhibit hall, reception, lunch, and two breakfasts. 3% convenience fee for payment by credit or debit card.

Two registration options are available.

1. **Register Online** - Go to www.workcompevent.com/north_carolina.

2. **Register by Mail** - Complete, copy, and return this form for each attendee, along with a check made payable to the IWCF (International Workers' Compensation Foundation, Inc.), and mail to IWCF, 570 Memorial Circle, Suite 320, Ormond Beach, FL 32174.

Name: _____

First Name for Name Badge: _____

Business Name: _____ Title: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Telephone: _____ Fax: _____

Email: _____

Area of Practice: ☐ Employer ☐ Employee ☐ Health & Safety Specialist ☐ Insurer ☐ TPA ☐ Attorney ☐ Mediator
☐ Paralegal ☐ Occup. Health Nurse ☐ Healthcare Provider ☐ Medical Rehab Specialist ☐ Vocational Rehab Specialist
☐ Human Resources Professional ☐ Other: _____

CONTINUING EDUCATION CREDITS - Application is pending for up to 12 hours of credit for Attorney CLE, Paralegal CPE, Adjuster CE, SHRM CE, and Rehabilitation CRC/CDMS/CCM credits, and 1 hour of credit for mediator CME. COHN, CRRN, and any other discipline will be provided with a certificate of completion, upon request. Please note special Department of Insurance rules for adjusters.

Please indicate the CE credits you will be seeking:

NC Attorney - Bar #: _____ NC Adjuster - NPN #: _____
_____ Mediator _____ Paralegal _____ SHRM _____ CRC _____ CCM _____ CDMS _____ COHN

LODGING - The host hotel is the RALEIGH MARRIOTT CRABTREE VALLEY - 4500 Marriott Dr, Raleigh, NC 27612. It provides easy access to the hundreds of retailers and dozens of restaurants and other eateries located at the Crabtree Valley Mall. Conference Rate: \$204.00/night • Rate cut-off September 22, 2026. The group rate will not be available if the room block becomes full prior to the cut-off date; make your reservations early. Click here to book your group rate online, or call 1-800-236-2427 and identify yourself as attending the 31st Annual North Carolina Workers' Compensation Educational Conference.

PRESENTATION MATERIALS - Download the presentation materials prior to the Conference. Please look for the link in an email announcement when the materials are available. Please be sure to provide an accurate and legible email address unique to each individual registrant when you register to ensure receipt of the instructions and Conference communications.

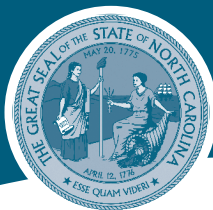
CONFERENCE ATTIRE - Casual clothing is appropriate for all events.

CANCELLATION REFUND POLICY - Cancellation of pre-registration must be made before 5:00 p.m. on October 2, 2026. Substitution of attendee is recommended in lieu of cancellation. The full registration fee will be forfeited if you fail to cancel timely.

ACCOMMODATIONS - Individuals attending the Conference who may need auxiliary aids or other accommodations are asked to provide notice of their accommodations in writing, via email to dearnest@iwcf.us, no later than 10 working days before the Conference so that appropriate arrangements can be made.

*For further information, contact the IWCF at Tel: (386) 677-0041; Fax: (386) 677-0155; Email: compconference@iwcf.us
International Workers' Compensation Foundation, 570 Memorial Circle, Suite 320, Ormond Beach, FL 32174.*

Net proceeds from this event, if any, go to the International Workers' Compensation Foundation (FEIN# 35-1737364), a non-profit organization, to further its work in workers' compensation education and outreach.



SPONSORSHIPS & EXHIBITOR OPPORTUNITIES

ATTENTION EXHIBITORS

The Conference includes an exhibit hall. Fee of \$1,000 includes two (2) complimentary registrations for exhibitor representatives. A separate registration form should be completed for each additional registrant.

Space is offered on a first-come, first-served basis and will only be reserved upon our receipt of your registration. Register online or send an advance copy of this form and your first three choices of booth location by fax to (386) 677-0155 or email to dearrest@iwcf.us. For additional information regarding the exhibit area, contact the IWCF at (386) 677-0041. Booth set-up will be in the exhibitor area on Wednesday, October 14th, 10 A.M. - 1 P.M. Tear down will be on Friday, October 16th, 12:50 P.M.

The continental breakfast and refreshment breaks will be held in or in close proximity to the Exhibition Areas. Registration fee includes one 8'x10' booth or 6' draped table and two chairs, identification sign, and registration for two representatives. Full fee forfeiture if unable to attend.

Kids' Chance of North Carolina (www.kidschancenc.org) invites all vendors to donate an item for the silent auction during the Wednesday reception. All donations are tax deductible and donors will be recognized. For more information, please contact:

Marty Baier, Silent Auction Chair
(919) 622-5995 or email: marty@baierinvestigations.com
Greg Shue
(704) 936-6767 or email: gshue@sandersoncomp.com

EXHIBITOR INSURANCE HOLD/HARMLESS CLAUSE

Exhibitor assumes entire responsibility and hereby agrees to protect, indemnify, defend, save, and hold harmless the International Workers' Compensation Foundation (IWCF), its employees and agents, and Chelsea Place Meetings and its employees and agents, against all claims, losses, and damages to persons or property, governmental charges, or fines and attorney fees arising out of its exhibits, excluding any such liability caused by the sole negligence of Chelsea Place Meetings and its employees and agents, as well as the IWCF, its members, employees, and agents.

In addition, exhibitor acknowledges that Chelsea Place Meetings and the IWCF do not maintain insurance covering exhibitors' property or potential liabilities and that it is the sole responsibility of the exhibitor to obtain insurance covering such losses by exhibitor. Exhibitor shall obtain and keep in force during the exhibit period policies of comprehensive general liability insurance and contractual liability insurance and specifically referring to contractual liability set forth in the foregoing paragraphs hereof, in an amount not less than \$1,000,000 combined single limit for personal injury and property damage. Chelsea Place Meetings and the IWCF shall be included in such policies as additionally named insureds for this convention only.

AUTHORIZED

SIGNATURE: _____

DATE: _____

SPONSORSHIP OPPORTUNITY

You are invited to register as a sponsor for the 31st Annual North Carolina Workers' Compensation Educational Conference. Sponsors are recognized in signage, and a display table is not included. The following sponsorship levels are available:

Gold: \$1,250 Contribution

- Complimentary Attendee Registration.
- Organization name and contact information will appear in Conference program.
- Organization name will appear on a large "Thank You Sponsor" sign in exhibit area.

Silver: \$750 Contribution

- Organization name will appear on a large "Thank You Sponsor" sign in exhibit area.

CHECK CATEGORY WHICH APPLIES:

- ☐ **SPONSORSHIP** ☐ Gold ☐ Silver
☐ **EXHIBITOR**

Company Name: _____

Specialty: _____

Contact Person: _____

Title: _____

Address: _____

City: _____

State: _____ Zip: _____

Phone: _____

Fax: _____

Email Address: _____

GOLD SPONSORS & EXHIBITORS

Comp. Registrant #1: _____ *Name & Title*

Email: _____

EXHIBITORS ONLY

Comp. Registrant #2: _____

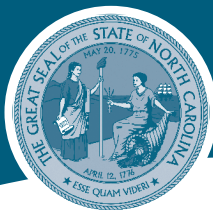
Email: _____

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SCHEDULE OF SESSIONS

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 14, 2026

- 12:40 **Opening Remarks**
Tyler Younts, Chairman, NCIC
Kids' Chance of North Carolina, Inc.
Greg Shue, President, Kids' Chance of North Carolina, Inc.
- 12:55 **Back to the Basics: Occupational Diseases**
Daniel Pope, Jr., Wilson Ratledge, Raleigh, NC; Martha Ramsay, Ramsay Law Firm, Charlotte, NC
- 1:55 **From Impact to Impairment: The Science and Strategy of Brain Injury Claims**
Peter Jeffrey Ewert, Ph.D., ABPP, Carolina Neuroservices - The Head Injury Center, Charlotte, NC; Todd King, Wilder Pantazis, Charlotte, NC; Emily C. Pappas, Ford Richardson, Raleigh, NC
- 2:55 **Break - Visit Exhibit Hall**
- 3:15 **Workers' Compensation Appellate Law Update**
Heather T. Baker, Skidmore Law Group, PLLC, Raleigh, NC;
E. Stewart Poisson, Poisson Poisson & Bower, Wilmington, NC
- 4:15 **You Be the Judge!**
Larry Baker, Willson Jones Carter & Baxley, Charlotte, NC;
Stephanie Gay, Aegis Administrative Services, Raleigh, NC;
Annemarie Pantazis, Wilder Pantazis, Charlotte, NC
- 5:15 **Adjourn / Reception Begins**
Kids' Chance Silent Auction
- 6:15 **Reception Ends**

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 15, 2026

- 8:00 **Continental Breakfast**
- 9:00 **Break-Out Sessions - Choose one (1) session of two (2) listed below**
- I. Ethical Issues in Workers' Compensation Cases for Adjusters and Attorneys**
(Fulfills one (1) hour attorney Ethics/Professional Responsibility credit and Adjuster Ethics credit)
Julia Dixon, Director of Licensing & Compliance, North Carolina State Lottery Commission, Raleigh, NC;
Scarlette Gardner, Claims Manager, Advance Auto Parts, Raleigh, NC;
Jarvis T. Harris, Law Offices of James Scott Farrin, Greensboro, NC
- II. A View from the Bench: Deputy Commissioner Panel**
Tiffany Mack Smith, Deputy Commissioner, NCIC; Erin Taylor, Deputy Commissioner, NCIC; John Tomei, Deputy Commissioner, NCIC
- 10:00 **Break - Visit Exhibit Hall**
- 10:20 **Break-Out Sessions - Choose one (1) session of two (2) listed below**
- I. Using AI Effectively in Workers' Compensation Legal Practice**
(Fulfills one (1) hour attorney Technology credit)
Douglas E. Berger, Law Offices of James Scott Farrin, Durham, NC;
Savannah Kent, McAngus, Goudelock & Courie, Charlotte, NC
- II. Industrial Commission Claims Update and Claims Form Filing Tips**
Ashley Moore, Chief Deputy Commissioner and Director of Claims Administration, NCIC; Demetrius Edwards, Assistant Director of Claims Administration, NCIC
- 11:20 **Break-Out Sessions - Choose one (1) session of two (2) listed below**
- I. New Medicare Set Aside Requirements in Workers' Compensation Cases**
Shannon Metcalf, Hedrick Gardner, Charlotte, NC;
Alexandra Kensinger, Ricci Law Firm, Raleigh, NC

II. Full Commission Update

J.D. Prather, Full Commission Chief Administrative Officer and Lead Counsel, NCIC;
Melissa Botiglione, Full Commission Assistant Administrative Officer and Counsel, NCIC

12:20 Lunch & Dessert with Vendors (included)

1:45 Break-Out Sessions - Choose one (1) session of two (2) listed below

I. Executive Secretary's Office Update and Practical Tips

Meredith Henderson, Executive Secretary, NCIC; Kimberly Fennell, Special Deputy Commissioner, NCIC; Carrie Geddie, Special Deputy Commissioner, NCIC; Alexandra Hagerty, Special Deputy Commissioner, NCIC; Michael Kelly, Special Deputy Commissioner, NCIC; Jeff McMillion, Special Deputy Commissioner, NCIC; Jessica Parker, Special Deputy Commissioner, NCIC

II. To Live, Not Exist: What Our Experiences Can Teach Us About Managing Stress and Anxiety

(Fulfills one (1) hour attorney Professional Well-Being credit)
Coleman Cowan, Law Offices of James Scott Farrin, Durham, NC

3:00 Break-Out Sessions - Choose one (1) session of two (2) listed below

I. Autism in the Legal Workplace

(Fulfills one (1) hour attorney Ethics / Professional Responsibility credit)
S. Michael Chapman, UNC School of Medicine, TEACCH Autism Program, Chapel Hill, NC;
David I. Werner, J.D., MSLS, Licensed School Library Media Coordinator, Raleigh, NC

II. Clerk's Office Update and Practical Filing Tips for ICMS and EDPF

Emily Baucom, Clerk of the Industrial Commission, NCIC

4:00 Adjourn

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 16, 2026

- 8:00 **Continental Breakfast**
- 9:00 **Diabetes and Workers' Compensation Injuries**
E. Kenneth (Kenny) Coble, Willson Jones Carter & Baxley, Charlotte, NC;
John C. Parker, M.D., Raleigh Medical Group, Raleigh, NC;
Bradley (Brad) H. Smith, The Law Offices of Bradley H. Smith, Charlotte, NC
- 10:00 **Break - Visit Exhibit Hall**
- 10:30 **Break-Out Sessions - Choose one (1) session of two (2) listed below**
- I. Ethics Considerations for Workers' Compensation Mediators**
(Fulfills one (1) hour CME credit)
Jackie Clare, Clare Mediation, Raleigh, NC;
Kevin Howell, Deputy Commissioner and Dispute Resolution Coordinator, NCIC;
Tara Kozlowski, Executive Director, NC Dispute Resolution Commission, Raleigh, NC
- II. Ethics Considerations for Rehabilitation Professionals**
(Fulfills one (1) hour Ethics credit for CCM & CDMS)
Vicki Hewitt-McNeil, Rehabilitation Nurse Consultant, NCIC;
Jodie Nolf, RN, CRRN, CCM, CLCP, Nolf Case Management & Consulting, Raleigh, NC
- 11:30 **Occupational Diseases: Medical and Legal Issues**
Matthew Case, DO, MMCi, MPH, Duke Occupational Health, Durham, NC;
April Gladkin, The Sumwalt Group, Raleigh, NC;
Caroline Parrish, Teague Campbell, Raleigh, NC
- 12:30 **Adjourn**