

2021 WORKERS' COMPENSATION VIRTUAL SEMINAR

Date:

Thursday, March 25, 2021

Time:

10:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m. CT

About this Program:

10:00 - 10:05 a.m. CT – WELCOME REMARKS

Bo Boyd

Chair, Workers' Compensation PG
TAYLOR, DAY, GRIMM & BOYD
Jacksonville, Florida

Kenny Veit

Program Chair, 2021 Virtual Seminar
LEITNER, WILLIAMS, DOOLEY & NAPOLITAN, PLLC
Nashville, Tennessee

10:05 - 11:00 a.m. CT - TAKING THE MASK OFF OF COVID

Doug Kotarek

HALL & EVANS LLC
Denver, Colorado

Ross S. Myerson, M.D., M.P.H.

MYERSON OCCUPATIONAL &
ENVIRONMENTAL MEDICINE, P.C
Gaithersburg, Maryland

Julie Murray

SEMMES, BOWEN & SEMMES
Baltimore, Maryland

The Medical and Legal Aspects of COVID-19: In this panel, we will explore the constantly evolving COVID-19 landscape. A medical expert will provide an update on community spread, direct exposures, and the overarching causal relationship considerations involved in COVID-19 cases. Our ALFA legal panelists will also discuss the current legislation on COVID-19 throughout the country, trends in litigation, and the impact that COVID-19 has on return to work programs, telemedicine efforts, vocational rehabilitation, and post-termination claims.

11:10 - 11:50 a.m. CT – CHALLENGES WITH COVID-19 ROUNDTABLE DISCUSSION

Laurie Frey

Sr. Manager, Workers' Compensation
KOHL'S DEPARTMENT STORES
Menomonee Falls, Wisconsin

Patrice Simcox

Workers' Compensation Manager
GENESIS HEALTHCARE
Kennett Square, Pennsylvania

Shannon Blair

HAIGHT BROWN & BONESTEEL LLP
Los Angeles, California

Meredith Rainey

MORRISON MAHONEY LLP
Fall River, Massachusetts

During this roundtable discussion, we want the group to share ideas and strategies regarding COVID-19 and where it will take us going forward. Such topics will include: return to the work place for non-essential employees; compensability and causation; disclosure and tracking; and the potential for mandatory vaccinations. Reflection on the last year will assist in guiding us through our practices as we head into the second year of the pandemic.

12:00 - 1:00 p.m. CT – NETWORKING RECEPTION & REFRESHMENTS

Please plan to enjoy a late breakfast or lunch on us! You will receive an email from GrubHub to the email address provided at registration. It contains instructions on how to setup your account and access the ALFA International credit. This credit will be applied to your order on the payment page. Please note, orders must be scheduled for delivery on March 25th in order to apply the credits.

Presenters:

SHANNON BLAIR is a Partner in the ALFA International law firm of Haight Brown & Bonesteel LLP and is a member of the firm's Employment & Labor Practice Group. She is a Certified Specialist in Workers' Compensation Law by the State Bar of California Board of Legal Specialization. Shannon's practice focuses on California workers' compensation law, including employer serious and willful misconduct, 132a and defense of independent contractor issues before the WCAB. She routinely represents Fortune 500 companies, self-insured employers, insurance carriers, small businesses and employers who maintain high retention levels requiring strict oversight of their claims. She has served as a Judge Pro Tem before the WCAB and has successfully assisted multiple clients with the prosecution by the District Attorney of several workers' compensation cases involving injured worker fraud. Shannon began her career in-house as legal counsel for a third-party administrator litigating workers' compensation cases for CBS and Paramount Studios. While in college she administered workers' compensation claims at the Federal Aviation Administration. Shannon frequently speaks at seminars on topics concerning California Workers' Compensation, Medicare Compliance and Social Media Discovery. Shannon spends her free time working on her handicap with the Women Lawyers Association of Los Angeles golf league and the LPGA Amateur Golf Association. The organizations support The First Tee and the SCGA Junior Golf Club. Shannon also volunteers with the Downtown Dog Rescue and the Inner City Law Center on Skid Row assisting Los Angeles' homeless and their pets.

CHRISTOPHER P. "BO" BOYD is a shareholder at the ALFA International firm of Taylor, Day, Grimm and Boyd in Jacksonville, Florida, where he heads Taylor Day's workers' compensation practice group. Bo joined the firm immediately after graduating from law school in 1992 and became a shareholder in 1997. Bo's practice focuses on the defense of claims filed under the Florida Workers' Compensation Act, the Defense Base Act and the Longshore and Harbor Workers' Compensation Act. Bo frequently speaks at professional organizations' seminars on topics relevant to the defense of employers, self-insureds and insurance carriers in all areas of his practice. He received his B.S. degree in Real Estate and his J.D. from Florida State University."

LAURIE C. FREY is the Senior Manager of Worker's Compensation & Risk Services in the Risk Management Department of Kohl's Department Stores. In her role, she manages a team that oversees all work-related incidents for the Fortune 500 Company. She also provides innovative programming and solutions to continue to drive claims costs down and reduce work related incidents at Kohl's. She has been with Kohl's for seven years. Prior to Kohl's, Laurie was a worker's compensation defense attorney in Milwaukee, Wisconsin.

DOUGLAS J. KOTAREK is a member of the ALFA International law firm of Hall & Evans LLC in Denver, Colorado, where he heads the firm's Workers' Compensation Department. Since 1988, Mr. Kotarek has practiced insurance defense litigation, focusing exclusively on workers' compensation defense since 1992. He is currently on the Executive and Legislative Committees of the Colorado Self-Insurers' Association, and lobbies the Colorado legislature regarding workers' compensation legislation for the Association. Mr. Kotarek received both his B.A. and J.D. from Brigham Young University. Mr. Kotarek is a past Chair of the ALFA International Workers' Compensation Practice group.

JULIE D. MURRAY is a principal at the ALFA International law firm of Semmes, Bowen & Semmes in Baltimore, MD. She received her B.A. from University of Maryland, College Park, and graduated cum laude from University of Maryland School of Law. Ms. Murray's practice focuses on the defense of employers and insurers in their workers' compensation claims in Maryland and the District of Columbia and she regularly appears before the administrative agencies and appellate courts in both jurisdictions. Her clients include self-insured Employers as well as insurance companies providing coverage for large and small Employers across a broad range of industries. In addition to representing clients in the defense of workers' compensation claims, Ms. Murray also regularly provides education and training to risk management professionals to help them successfully manage their claims. She also regularly appears before the Maryland Senate and House of Representatives to testify regarding proposed legislative changes to the Maryland Workers' Compensation Act. She has been selected as a "Rising Star" and a Super Lawyer by Baltimore Magazine and Maryland Super Lawyers annually from 2014 to present.

DR. ROSS MYERSON is President of Myerson Occupational and Environmental Medicine, P.C. He received his Bachelor's Degree from Washington University in St. Louis, his Doctorate in Medicine from the George Washington University School of Medicine, and a Master's in Public Health at Boston University School of Public Health. He is board certified in Occupational and Environmental Medicine and a Fellow of the American College of Occupational and Environmental Medicine and a Fellow of the International Academy of Independent Medical Evaluators. He is a past president of the Metropolitan Washington College of Occupational & Environmental Medicine. Dr. Myerson has extensive experience as both a clinician and a consultant. His clinical experience includes over 8000 hours of emergency medicine practice, and he has served as a full time Medical Director in an active occupational medicine clinic. In his consultant capacity, he has provided expert medical consulting to local and national corporations in the areas of toxicology, environmental chemical and physical agents, design and development of preplacement medical surveillance and biological monitoring programs, occupational health policies and procedures, health hazard evaluation, risk communication, and clinical evaluation for determination of fitness for duty and return to work. Dr. Myerson is certified by the American Board of Independent Medical Examiners.

MEREDITH RAINEY is a Partner at the ALFA International law firm of Morrison Mahoney LLP in Fall River, Massachusetts. She specializes in the area of workers' compensation and represents numerous national self-insurers, insurers, and third-party administrators throughout all stages of litigation at the Department of Industrial Accidents. Ms. Rainey is an active member of the ALFA steering committee for the Workers' Compensation Practice Group, a current faculty member and speaker for the Workers' Compensation Section of the Massachusetts Continuing Legal Education, and a former faculty member at Roger Williams University. She is also the President of the Fall River Bar Association and the co-chair of the Women's Initiative Group within her firm. Ms. Rainey frequently speaks and provides training seminars throughout the country on the workers' compensation law in Massachusetts.

PATRICE SIMCOX has 25 years Workers Compensation experience on both the Insurance Company/TPA side along with experience on the Company side managing the Workers Compensation Program.

KENNETH D. VEIT is a Member of Leitner, Williams, Dooley, & Napolitan, PLLC, the ALFA International firm in Nashville, Tennessee. Mr. Veit has been practicing law since 2003 with a primary focus on workers' compensation defense throughout Tennessee and Kentucky. Mr. Veit represents clients at administrative, trial and appellate levels. He is an active member of the ALFA International Workers' Compensation Practice Group including a member of the ALFA steering committee. Mr. Veit is also a member of the American Bar Association, Tennessee and Nashville Bar Associations, Kentucky Bar Association, Defense Research Institute, and Tennessee Defense Lawyers Association. Mr. Veit is regularly asked to present lectures on Tennessee Workers' Compensation to employers and insurance companies.