

Transportation Practice Group Webinar

To Subscribe, or Not to Subscribe, That Is the Question: An Analysis of the Texas Workers' Compensation System

DATE:

Tuesday, March 18, 2025

TIME:

12:00 pm - 1:00 pm Central Time

ABOUT THIS WEBINAR:

The panel will discuss the Texas Workers' Compensation system, dive into the pros and cons of both subscribing and not subscribing to the system and then hear two competing perspectives from companies on why they opted in or out.

PANELISTS:

MADISON PRESTON (MODERATOR) is a member of Naman Howell Smith & Lee, PLLC, the ALFA International member firm in Austin, Texas. Madison concentrates her practice in civil and commercial litigation, including transportation, personal injury, wrongful death, premises liability, insurance defense, employment disputes and construction defect litigation. She manages each case she is assigned with a strategic eye and her client's best interest in mind. She is regularly called upon to evaluate challenging legal issues and develop litigation strategies for her clients. Madison has successfully defended individuals and commercial carriers in wrongful death, personal injury and Deceptive Trade Practices Act lawsuits. She has assisted clients with resolving disputes and lawsuits through mediation and jury trials.

REBECCA BAGGETT is the Managing Attorney of Casualty Litigation for AutoZone, Inc. in Memphis, Tennessee. She began working with AutoZone in 2013 and managed employment litigation during her first four years as a Zoner. Before joining AutoZone's Legal Department, Rebecca served as Senior Counsel, Litigation Manager with Direct General Insurance and Senior Associate Counsel, Litigation Manager and Assistant Secretary of Regions Bank. Prior to working as in-house counsel, Rebecca represented businesses and individuals in civil litigation in the state and federal courts of West Tennessee. Rebecca attended Christian Brothers University and obtained her J.D. from the University of Memphis, Cecil C. Humphreys School of Law.

ROCKY COE is the Director of Claims Services Inc., a wholly owned subsidiary of McLane Company and its third-party liability claims administrator. Responsibilities include overseeing all Auto and General Liability claims and litigation for McLane Company, Inc. and managing a staff of eight claims professionals. Rocky has 25 years of insurance claims experience, with 15 of those years in commercial trucking. Rocky spent 10 years with Texas Farm Bureau Insurance handling and supervising Personal Auto, Homeowner, Farm & Ranch and Commercial Auto and General Liability claims. He holds an Associate in Claims designation and Senior Claims Law designation and is completing the Chartered Property Casualty Underwriter program for the CPCU designation. Rocky holds memberships with the Trucking Industry Defense Association, Claims and Litigation Management Alliance, Claims Law Society and the CPCU Society. He is a Texas State University graduate, earning a bachelor's degree in Exercise and Sports Science. Rocky is married to Kim and has two boys. He enjoys spending time with family, the outdoors and coaching youth sports.

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EVAN PATTERSON is a member of Naman Howell Smith & Lee, PLLC, the ALFA International member firm in San Antonio, Texas. Evan practices civil litigation, focusing primarily on personal injury defense in commercial transportation and products/premises liability cases. Prior to joining Naman Howell, Evan worked as an Assistant District Attorney at the Bexar County District Attorney's Office, where he prosecuted all manner of cases, including DWIs, fraud cases, murders and just about everything else in between. While representing Bexar County, Evan tried over 25 cases to verdict. Apart from his courtroom experience, Evan's prosecutorial background gives him a leg up in handling investigations. Clients have found this experience particularly valuable when handling initial investigations of major incidents. Evan excels in identifying and preserving the crucial pieces of evidence that will protect his client's interest in any later litigation.