



2024 Oklahoma Workers' Compensation Commission Educational Conference Agenda



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THE OKLAHOMA WORKERS' COMPENSATION COMMISSION**

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2024 WCC EDUCATIONAL CONFERENCE



DAY 1

Thursday, October 24, 8 a.m.-5 p.m.

8 a.m. Registration and Breakfast

WCC CHAIRMAN JORDAN RUSSELL

8:45 a.m. *Opening Address*

MARK POPOLIZIO, VP MSP COMPLIANCE VERISK

9:10 a.m. *Mastering Medicare's Moving Targets*

10:10 a.m. Morning Break

**SCOTT ROLOFF, PRESIDENT OF INTEGER HEALTH
& DR. KENNY GRIFNO**

10:30 a.m. *At The Conventional the Innovative &
the Future of Workers' Compensation*

WCC CHAIRMAN JORDAN RUSSELL

11:30 a.m. WCC Case Law Update

12:30 p.m. Break for Lunch

2024 WCC EDUCATIONAL CONFERENCE



DAY 1

Thursday, October 24, 8 a.m.-5 p.m.

JULIE REDING, ASSISTANT GENERAL COUNSEL OID

1:30 p.m. Oklahoma Insurance Department
Rules for Insurance Adjusters

THE HONORABLE TARA A. INHOFE, WCC ALJ
THE HONORABLE P. BLAIR MCMILLIN, WCC ALJ
THE HONORABLE MOLLY H. LAWYER, WCC ALJ
THE HONORABLE JOHN L. BLODGETT, WCC ALJ

2:00 p.m.

WCC Administrative Law Judge Panel

2 : 3 0 P M A f t e r n o o n B r e a k

**CHRISTINA TOON, KID'S CHANCE BOARD
PRESIDENT**

2:50 p.m.

Kid's Chance Scholarship

THE HONORABLE JACQUE DEAN
THE HONORABLE MIKE MCGIVERN
FRANK GRUNKOWSKI

3:00 p.m.

Mediations Panel

2024 WCC EDUCATIONAL CONFERENCE



DAY 1

Thursday, October 24, 8am-5pm

**THE HONORABLE NOMA D. GURICH,
JUSTICE OF THE OKLAHOMA SUPREME COURT**

3:30 p.m.

Ethics

**THE HONORABLE ROBERT BELL, PRESIDING JUDGE
OF THE CEC DIVISION OF COCA
WCC COMMISSIONER SCOTT BIGGS
WCC EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR & GENERAL COUNSEL
LAUREN HAMMONDS JOHNSON**

4:30 p.m.

*Overview of WCC and CEC Changes
as a result of S.B. 1456*

5-7 p.m. Reception at Eskimo Joe's

501 W Elm Ave, Stillwater, OK 74074



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SECTION

2024 WCC EDUCATIONAL CONFERENCE



DAY 2

Friday, October 25, 8 a.m.-12:45 p.m.

8 a.m. Registration and Breakfast

9:00 am

**COMMISSIONER SCOTT BIGGS
DR. ROBERT REMONDINO,
DR. LEROY YOUNG,
DR. BILL GILLOCK**

*Independent Medical Examiner
Discussion Panel*

9:30 am

KELSEA MILLS
Vocational Rehabilitation

10:30AM BREAK AND VENDOR AWARDS

2024 WCC EDUCATIONAL CONFERENCE



DAY 2

Friday, October 25, 8 a.m.-12:45 p.m.

DR. THOMAS P. JANSEN

10:50 am *Use of MRI in Workers Compensation
Diagnosis*

SHANE HYMAN, HANGER CLINIC

11:50 am *Overview of Lower Limb Protheses*

12:45PM ADJOURNMENT



Presenters

Mark Popolizio is the Vice President of MSP Compliance and Policy for Verisk Casualty Solutions. He is a nationally recognized authority in Medicare Secondary Payer (MSP) compliance. Mark practiced insurance defense litigation for ten years concentrating in the areas of workers' compensation and general liability. As of 2006, Mark has dedicated his practice exclusively to MSP compliance working with carriers, self-insureds, TPAs and other claims professionals in addressing MSP compliance issues.

Since 2001, Mark has been a regularly featured presenter on MSP issues at national seminars and other industry events – and has authored numerous national articles addressing several topics related to MSP matters. In addition, Mark has released several articles on Third-Party Litigation Funding issues. Mark is also active with several industry groups.

Mark graduated Summa Cum Laude from Quinnipiac University in Hamden, Connecticut with Bachelor of Science degrees in Legal Studies and Sociology. He relocated to South Florida in 1992 to attend law school at Nova Southeastern University School of Law in Ft. Lauderdale, Florida. While at law school, Mark served as a Judicial Clerk to the late Honorable John D. Wessel (15th Judicial Circuit, Palm Beach County, Florida) and was a research assistant for Professor Leslie Larkin Cooney. Mark graduated from Nova in 1995 and is licensed to practice law in Florida and Connecticut.

Scott Roloff is both a CPA and a lawyer, uniquely blending financial, legal and operational experience; and he is also a Certified Management Accountant, Certified Internal Auditor and Chartered Global Management Accountant.

Before joining IntegerHealth as one of its co-founders, he was the CFO or General Counsel for companies in the healthcare, software and telecom industries, and he also led a wireless technology start-up in the Caribbean for tourists unable to use their cell phones. Prior to going into industry, Scott was a Corporate Partner at the international law firm of Akin Gump Strauss Hauer & Feld, where he focused on M&A, SEC and general corporate matters.

Scott holds a BBA in Accounting from the University of Wisconsin–Whitewater, an MBA from the University of Texas at Arlington, and a J.D. from Southern Methodist University (SMU), where he was the valedictorian of his law school class.

Dr. Kenny Grifno has over 25 years of experience in information technology, primarily focused on advanced analytics, business intelligence, data warehousing, application development, and big data in the healthcare industry. During this time Kenny has worked with insurance companies, state and federal governments, academic medical centers, hospitals, physician groups, and consulting firms, and with employer health plans.

Kenny is also an Assistant Professor of Information Systems teaching Healthcare Business Analytics courses at the Sam M. Walton College of Business at the University of Arkansas. Kenny holds a B.S. and M.S. from UT Dallas and a Ph.D. from Oklahoma State University.



Presenters

Chairman Jordan K. Russell is an attorney who joined the Commission after serving three legislative sessions as policy director and counsel to former Oklahoma Speaker of the House Jeffrey W. Hickman. Prior to his time at the State Capitol, Jordan had a successful law practice in the downtown Oklahoma City office of Gungoll, Jackson, Box & Devoll, P.C. Chairman Russell also previously worked as a legislative assistant to Oklahoma's U.S. Congressman Frank D. Lucas in his Washington, D.C. office where he worked on issues involving healthcare, labor, social security, and disability, and ERISA. Chairman Russell was appointed to the Oklahoma Workers' Compensation Commission by Governor Mary Fallin effective October 4, 2016, and was reappointed to the Commission by Governor Kevin Stitt to a term ending in August 2025. Chairman Russell was appointed Chairman of the Workers' Compensation Commission June 1, 2021, by Governor Kevin Stitt.

Justice Noma D. Gurich has served as Justice of the Supreme Court, District 3, since February 15, 2011. She is the third woman to serve as Chief Justice since statehood. She follows the lead of Justice Alma Wilson and Justice Yvonne Kauger who each served as Chief Justice in the 1990s. As Chief Justice, she has administrative, budgetary, and oversight duties for court clerks and judges in all 77 counties, as well as the Court of Civil Appeals. Justice Noma D. Gurich has been a judge in Oklahoma for over 30 years. Justice Gurich has the unique distinction of having been appointed to a judicial office by four governors of Oklahoma, after being nominated by the constitutionally created Judicial Nominating Commission. Prior to her judicial career, Justice Gurich was engaged in the private practice of law in Oklahoma City for 10 years. She served on the Oklahoma Workers' Compensation Court from 1988 to 1998, including 4 years as Presiding Judge. She was appointed to serve as a district judge in Oklahoma County in 1998 and after winning a contested judicial race, held office for 3 additional terms with no opposition. She served as Presiding Administrative Judge for two years. She also served as the Presiding Judge of two consecutive Multi-county Grand Juries. Justice Gurich is a member of the American Bar Association, Oklahoma Bar Association, and life member of the Oklahoma Judicial Conference.



Presenters

Julie Reding kicked off her legal career in Washington, DC where she worked on the Subcommittee on Native American Affairs for the U.S. House of Representatives. She worked as Legislative Counsel to an Oklahoman Congressman covering a variety of issues including the Congressman's Banking and House Financial Services Committee assignments. She's worked in criminal defense, personal injury and tribal law and was a panelist at the Sovereignty Symposium. She valued her work as a History Teacher and Coach and also working in the non-profit fundraising and philanthropy world. She has served on various boards and organizations. As the former Note Editor for the American Indian Law Review and Co-Founder and President of the Association of Public Interest Law while a law student at OU, she is diving into her first year at the Oklahoma Insurance Department providing legal counsel to the Licensing, Bail Bond and Financial Divisions. Away from the legal world, Ms. Reding enjoys gardening, tennis, walking her dogs and spending time with her husband and family.

Jacque Dean earned her Juris Doctorate from Oklahoma City University, and a Bachelor of Science degree from Oklahoma State University. She served as a workers' compensation judge from 1984 to 1988 and as Administrator of the Workers' Compensation Court from 1982 to 1984 and graduated from the Workers' Compensation College in Tucson, Arizona. Her achievements in the area of workers' compensation law include being named in The Best Lawyers in America, and she was inducted as a Fellow of the inaugural class of The College of Workers' Compensation Attorneys. Jacque was named "The Outstanding Young Lawyer in Oklahoma" by the Oklahoma Bar Association in 1985. She was also appointed by the Governor of Oklahoma to serve as an Alcoholic Beverage Laws Enforcement (ABLE) Commissioner from 1990 – 1995. Jacque has been rated AV® by Martindale-Hubbell's Peer Review Ratings. Admissions include Oklahoma Bar Association, the U.S. District Courts for the Western & Eastern Districts of Oklahoma, and U.S. Court of Appeals for the Tenth Circuit.

Presenters



Mike McGivern graduated University of Tulsa in with a 1974 B.S. in Education, he earned his JD in 1980. He has practiced all 43 years of his career in the Workers Compensation area. He was a judge in the CEC from July 1st, 2012 to June 30th, 2020. His practice consists in mainly representing respondents and conducting mediations for the CEC and the Commission. Before taking the bench, he was a certified mediator for the Workers' Compensation Court mediating over one hundred cases for the Court most of which were brought to a conclusion via settlement. Presently, he is back into mediating claims for the Commission and attorneys in the Workers Compensation area. He was appointed Service Agent for American International Group for their compensation insurance companies in the state of Oklahoma. He would distribute the cases to the various carriers and make sure counsel was obtained to make sure the employer and carrier were protected. He held this responsibility for approximately fifteen years before going on the bench.

Frank Gruntkowski graduated John Carrol University in 1993 with a Bachelor of Science in Psychology. He earned his JD in 1996 from the University of Tulsa. He has been practicing in workers' compensation for nearly 28 years. Currently his practice is focused on Mediation.

Judge Tara A. Inhofe is an Administrative Law Judge of the Oklahoma Workers' Compensation Commission. Judge Inhofe graduated from Tulsa University with a bachelor of arts in 1988. She attended Tulsa University College of Law and obtained her Juris Doctorate in 1991. Judge Inhofe's primary practice area since graduating from law school has been workers' compensation. She has worked both as a claimant attorney and respondent attorney. Before being appointed in May 2014, she was Staff Counsel for The Hartford.

Molly H. Lawyer is an Administrative Law Judge of the Oklahoma Workers' Compensation Commission. She received her bachelor of science in political science from the University of Oklahoma in 2005. She then attended the University of Tulsa Law School and received her juris doctorate in 2008. She practiced as a workers' compensation defense attorney representing insurance companies and self-insured employers in Oklahoma from 2008 until 2017. She served as an executive board member and Chairperson for 2012-2013 of the Oklahoma Bar Association Workers' Compensation Section. She was also the 2010-2011 Chairperson of the Tulsa County Bar Association Young Lawyers Division as well as a previous executive board member for The Tulsa Women Lawyers Association. She was appointed an Administrative Law Judge for the Oklahoma Workers' Compensation Commission in September of 2017 and currently resides in Tulsa and Oklahoma City.

Presenters



Judge John L. Blodgett is an Administrative Law Judge of the Oklahoma Workers' Compensation Commission. He received his bachelor's degree in Elementary Education from Cameron University in Lawton, Oklahoma. He earned his Juris Doctorate from the University of Oklahoma School of Law. Judge Blodgett has over 20 years of experience practicing law in Oklahoma. For last ten years of his legal career he has practiced in workers' compensation law, working with both respondents and limited work with claimants. Judge Blodgett's professional licenses include the Oklahoma State Bar, the United States District Courts for Western, Eastern and Northern Districts, as well as the United States Court of Appeals for the Tenth Circuit.

Judge P. Blair McMillin is an Administrative Law Judge of the Oklahoma Workers' Compensation Commission. She received her bachelor's degree in journalism and public relations from Oklahoma State University with honors. She graduated from Oklahoma City University School of Law, cum laude. Judge McMillin has been practicing law since 2006. For the past six years, her experience has been focused on workers' compensation, both in general litigation and in claimant practice. Judge McMillin is a member of the Oklahoma Trial Lawyers Association, Oklahoma County Bar Association, and Workers' Compensation Section. Her professional licenses include the Oklahoma State Bar, the United States District Court, Western District of Oklahoma, the Supreme Court and all other Courts of the Chickasaw Nation.

Scott Biggs joined the Commission after serving as the State Executive Director for the Farm Service Agency within the USDA. Prior to his service with the USDA, Commissioner Biggs was an elected member of the Oklahoma House of Representatives. At the Capitol, Scott served on a variety of committees and in several leadership roles. Much of his work was focused on both agriculture and victims' issues. Scott was the leading voice for State Question 794 which placed victims' rights in the State Constitution. Before his time at the State Capitol, Scott ran a private legal practice and worked in several district attorney's offices around the state.

Commissioner Biggs currently serves as an officer in the Oklahoma Air National Guard and is assigned to the 138th Fighter Wing legal office in Tulsa, Oklahoma. He was recently recognized with the Patriot Award for his support and cooperation of fellow members in the Guard, Reserves, and veterans of military service in their employment opportunities.

Commissioner Biggs and his wife, Dr. Rosslyn Biggs, reside on their ranch in Stillwater with their two daughters. He and his family enjoy being involved with their daughters' school and in various agriculture activities, including raising and showing their ponies and cattle.

Governor Kevin Stitt appointed Commissioner Biggs to a six-year term with the Oklahoma Workers' Compensation Commission effective August 26, 2021.

Presenters



Judge Robert (Bobby) Bell received a Bachelor of Arts degree from the University of Oklahoma. He received his law degree from the University of Tulsa College of Law. He later earned an LL.M. from Duke University Law School. While practicing law in Norman, he served as a municipal trial judge, and he has served as an adjunct professor at the University of Oklahoma College of Law since 1998. In June 2005, Judge Bell was appointed to the Oklahoma Court of Civil Appeals. He was subsequently retained for full terms in statewide votes held in 2006, 2012 and 2018. He also served as the Chief Judge in 2010 as well as a Special Justice on the Oklahoma Supreme Court numerous times. He was selected as one of the top appellate judges in the country in 2013, being invited to the prestigious Duke Master of Laws program taught by prominent scholars and United States Supreme Court Justices. He excelled in this program by being selected as an editor of the scholarly magazine, *Judicature*.

In 2006, *The Journal Record*, Oklahoma's largest business and legal newspaper, named him one of Oklahoma's outstanding achievers under forty. Judge Bell was appointed vice president of the Oklahoma Judicial Conference in 2011. He currently sits on the education committee of the United States Supreme Court Historical Society. Judge Bell has also been named the Outstanding Senior Alumnus for the University of Tulsa as well as a member of the Duke Heritage Society.

Lauren Hammonds Johnson is the Executive Director and General Counsel at the WCC. In this role, she oversees the agency's legal and administrative operations, providing counsel to Commissioners and Division Directors to ensure compliance with state and federal laws. Lauren manages the operations and regulatory divisions, implementing strategies to enhance efficiency. She also acts as a liaison among the Commissioners, promoting transparency and collaboration. Before assuming her current role, Lauren served in various state government positions, including as an Assistant Attorney General in the Multicounty Grand Jury Unit, where she prosecuted white-collar crimes and served as a legal advisor to the Multicounty Grand Jury. Her responsibilities included drafting Attorney General opinions, conducting complex research, and educating individuals throughout the state on topics such as the Open Meeting Act and Open Records Act. She holds a Juris Doctorate from the University of Oklahoma College of Law and an undergraduate degree in Accounting from Oklahoma State University. Her diverse educational background and professional experience equip her to address complex legal and administrative challenges at the WCC.

Presenters



Robert L. Remondino, M.D. is a graduate of the University of Oklahoma and received his Doctorate of Medicine from the University of Oklahoma College of Medicine in 1970. He went on to an internship at Baylor University Medical Center in Dallas and a neurosurgery residency at UCLA Medical Center in Los Angeles. He then completed a fellowship in spine surgery at the University of Miami School of Medicine.

Board certified by the American Board of Neurological Surgery, Dr. Remondino specializes in complex spine surgery and instrumentation. He is also widely published in professional journals, frequently lecturing at symposia and conferences.

He serves as chief of staff at Oklahoma Spine Hospital and holds memberships in the American Medical Association, the Oklahoma State Medical Association, the Oklahoma County Medical Society, the American Association of Neurological Surgeons and the Oklahoma Association of Neurosurgeons.

LeRoy E. Young, DO, FAOCOPM dist., is a certified occupational and preventive medicine specialist in Oklahoma City. A graduate of the Kansas City University of Biomedical Sciences College of Osteopathic Medicine, Dr. Young is a past OOA president and serves on various bureau and committees of the OOA; most notably as Chair of Bureau on Legislation and Chair of OOPAC. He currently serves as Board of Trustees member for the Oklahoma Educational Foundation for Osteopathic Medicine and is President of the Oklahoma State Board of Osteopathic Examiners. Dr. Young is Senior Associate Dean for Clinical Affairs for the Oklahoma State University-Oklahoma City College of Osteopathic Medicine.

Presenters



Dr. Gillock is in the private practice of Occupational Medicine in Tulsa, specializing in Workers' Compensation Disability Evaluations.

He obtained his Medical Degree from the University of Oklahoma College of Medicine in 1979. He did an internship at Tulane University in New Orleans, Louisiana from 1979-80. He completed a Family Practice Residency at the University of Oklahoma College of Medicine-Tulsa Campus in 1982. He then completed an Internal Medicine Residency at the University of Oklahoma College of Medicine-Tulsa in 1983. He then completed a Master's Degree in Public Health at the University of Oklahoma College of Public Health in 1989. He is currently on the volunteer faculty of the University of Oklahoma College of Medicine.

He is Board Certified in Family Medicine, Internal Medicine, and Occupational Medicine.

He has practiced in the Occupational Medicine Sections at the Glass-Nelson Clinic and the Hillcrest Occupational Medicine Clinic prior to entering private practice. He was previously the Director of the Employee Health Service at the Hillcrest Medical Center in Tulsa.

He has been the past President of the Oklahoma Chapter of the American College of Occupational and Environmental Medicine.

He has been on the Qualified List of Medical Examiners for the Workers' Compensation Court since its inception and has been intensely interested in the activities of the Physician Advisory Committee since its inception.

He was appointed to the Physician Advisory Committee to the Oklahoma Workers' Compensation Court in September 2004. He has been reappointed for successive terms ever since. He has been Chairman of the PAC since 2015.

Kelsea Mills is a Certified Rehabilitation Counselor, Certified Ergonomic Assessment Specialist, and is the President and Founder of Vocational Consulting for Oklahoma, LLC. She has 13 years of experience providing vocational rehabilitation services for the Oklahoma Workers' Compensation System. Kelsea graduated from OU in 2005 with a Bachelor Degree in Political Science. She furthered her studies at Langston University where she graduated Summa Cum Laude with a Master Degree in Rehabilitation Counseling with an emphasis in Disability Management Studies in 2010.

Presenters



Thomas P. Janssen, MD received his M.D. at the University of Oklahoma, after finishing his undergraduate degree at Oklahoma State University. Dr. Janssen completed an internship and residency in Family Practice, followed by a residency in Orthopedic Surgery at the University of Oklahoma Health Sciences Center.

Dr. Janssen is board certified by the American Board of Orthopedic Surgery. He holds memberships with the American Medical Association, Oklahoma State Medical Association, Oklahoma County Medical Association and the Oklahoma Orthopedic Society. Dr. Janssen joined McBride in July 1995.

Shane Hyman, CPO is a prosthetist-orthotist for Hanger Clinic and certified in orthotics and prosthetics by the American Board of Certification. Currently, he directs orthotic and prosthetic patient care as the clinical manager of the Hanger Clinic in Norman and Oklahoma City. Shane has completed a B.S. in Health & Sports Sciences at the University of Oklahoma and has completed graduate level training at Northwestern University Prosthetics & Orthotics Center in Chicago, IL. He has practiced as a prosthetist-orthotist with Hanger Clinic for 20 years and has directed patient care as a clinic manager since 2006. Shane has a special interest in lower extremity prosthetics, foot & ankle orthoses, cranial remolding orthoses, WalkAide functional electrical stimulation, and stance control knee orthoses.