



NWCEF Educational Seminar & Annual Meeting

March 8, 2024
Mahoney State Park
8:30am – 12:30pm

8:00 – 8:30 am | *Registration*

8:30 – 8:40 am | *Opening Remarks, Dallas Jones, NWCEF President*

8:40 – 9:20 am | *Trends in the Trial Courts*

Speakers: Dallas Jones & Makenzie Falcon, Baylor Evnen Wolfe & Tannehill, LLP

Personal experience is the best teacher, but a close second is the experience of others. This presentation will discuss how and why trial judges decided actual cases involving the most important trends in the Nebraska workers' compensation system. You will learn from the mistakes made by some employers/insurers, and the good practices followed by others, so you are better able to deal with situations most employers will eventually encounter.

9:20 – 9:50 am | *Living in a Post Espinoza World*

Speaker: Eric Sutton, Baylor Evnen Wolfe & Tannehill, LLP

Can multiple injuries to the same extremity in one accident really open the door to an employee being awarded permanent benefits based on the employee's loss of earning capacity, rather than the Schedule of Benefits? Yes! Mr. Sutton will make clear how a Nebraska Supreme Court decision from last year interpreted the Workers' Compensation Act in a way that was inconsistent with the intent of the Legislature, and the significant additional exposure employers now face as a result. He will make clear why employers need to support the bill NWCEF has introduced to correct the problem.

9:50 – 10:30 am | *Workers' Compensation Employment Overlap*

Speakers: David Williams & Maria Lighthall, Boys Town, Chris Schmidt & Paul Barta, Baylor Evnen Wolfe & Tannehill, LLP

Oftentimes, a work injury triggers not only workers' compensation considerations, but also various employment-related hurdles that have to be met. Failure to take both considerations into account can result in significant and unintended consequences. This panel is comprised of risk management specialists and legal counsel and will focus on best practices in addressing injuries from both employment and workers' compensation perspectives, from the initial reporting of an injury, reasonable accommodation considerations, to global settlement considerations.

10:30 – 10:45 am | **Break**

10:45 – 11:30 am | *Investigation and Determination of Cumulative Injuries from a Medical Perspective*

Speakers: Dr. Ian Crabb, Merit Medical Evaluations, Jim Townsend, Kawasaki, & Dallas Jones, Baylor Evnen Wolfe & Tannehill, LLP

As everyone knows, “cumulative trauma” injuries can seem, at best, confusing and hard to pin down and at worst, nothing more than best guesses when it comes to causation. Oftentimes, experts will be asked to review incomplete information and/or not have a clear understanding of what are the actual occupational risk factors actually are in the workplace, and are left to rely on the employee’s description. This interactive panel will discuss occupational risk factors for cumulative trauma injuries – what is real and what is myth. The panelists will educate employers on what they should gather to assist a medical professional in assessing and diagnosing the validity of a claimed “cumulative trauma” injury.

11:30 – 12:15 pm | *Legislative Update—A Review of the Legislative Bills Affecting the Workers’ Compensation System, and a Discussion of Developments in the Business and Labor Committee with a Q & A with Senator Riepe*

Speakers: Senator Merv Riepe & Bob Hallstrom, NWCEF Lobbyist and Executive Secretary

NWCEF’s lobbyist, Bob Hallstrom, is the leading spokesperson for employers’ workers’ compensation rights in the Nebraska Legislature. Mr. Hallstrom will preview this session’s bills which impact workers’ compensation, what they mean to employers, the status of those bills, and what employers can do to promote or oppose any of the bills.

Chair of the Business and Labor Committee, Senator Merv Riepe will provide insight into the prospects of the workers’ compensation bills advancing from the committee, and answer attendees’ questions about them.

12:15 – 12:30 pm | *Closing Remarks and Brief Membership Meeting*

WIFI INFORMATION

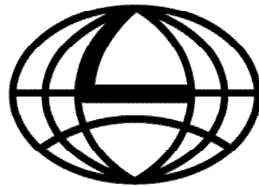
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