

North Carolina's Comp Reforms: What Have We Learned?

September 7-8, 2021
Holiday Inn Resort
Wrightsville Beach, NC

Presented by the North Carolina Association of Self-Insurers



Registration fees

\$30 for members
\$450 for non-members

Exhibitor fees

\$300 for members
\$750 for non-members

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Photos by Moby Salahuddin

Overview

North Carolina employers should be pleased major reforms passed by the General Assembly in 2011 and new medical-fee schedules imposed in 2015 – two initiatives supported by NCASI - are moderating indemnity and medical costs in the state. Nevertheless, between 2012-2017 total costs per claim in North Carolina were 23% higher than the median of the 18 states monitored by the Workers Compensation Research Institute.

At our 2021 annual conference we will hear the Industrial Commission's perspective on the impact of reforms. Also on the agenda, a panel discussion among three lawyers on strategies for defending extended benefits, a look at threats to employers' control of medical treatment, a case law update, recent advances in treating brain injuries, managing the post-COVID workforce, and tips on improving your actuarial performance.

NCASI's annual conference is an ideal forum for networking with your peers and potential customers and for learning how workers' comp is developing in North Carolina. The conference – an excellent opportunity for sponsors and exhibitors – provides valuable continuing education credits for adjusters and lawyers.

For details, contact Moby Salahuddin, executive director, at Mobysal@outlook.com.

About NCASI

The North Carolina Association of Self-Insurers is proud to be the *Employers' Voice in Workers' Compensation*. The association is active before the North Carolina Industrial Commission and the General Assembly and maintains a lobbyist to protect employers' interests. We keep our members updated through our quarterly publication, **NC Workers' Comp News**, and on our website at www.ncselfinsurers.com.

Many of North Carolina's largest employers belong to our association, along with claims professionals, rehab specialists, TPAs, surveillance professionals, and law firms. Membership is open to self-insured employers and those with large deductibles.

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SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

Tuesday, September 7

- 12:00 p.m. – 5:00 p.m. **Registration**
- 12:45 p.m. – 1:00 p.m. **Welcome & Opening Remarks**
Stephanie Gay, president
NC Association of Self-Insurers
- 1:00 p.m. – 2:00 p.m. **Impact of 2011 Reforms: The Commission's Perspective**
Philip Baddour, chair, *NC Industrial Commission*
Myra Griffin, vice-chair, *NC Industrial Commission*
Jim Gillen, commissioner, *NC Industrial Commission*
Moderator: Jeff Kadis, *Hedrick Gardner*
- 2:00 p.m. – 2:30 p.m. **Legislative Update**
Bob Kaylor, lobbyist
NC Association of Self-Insurers
- 2:30 p.m. – 3:00 p.m. **Refreshment Break**
- 3:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m. **Erosion of the Employer's Control of Medical Treatment**
Kristine Prati, *Wilson Ratledge*
- 4:00 p.m. – 5:15 p.m. **Case Law Update**
Eleasa Harris Allen, *Robinson & Lawing*
Rita Dorry, *Lewis & Roberts*
Brian Groesser, *Midkiff, Muncie & Ross*
- 5:15 p.m. – 6:15 p.m. **Welcoming Reception**
Turtle Watch

Wednesday, September 8

- 7:15 a.m. – 8:15 a.m. **Breakfast**
- 8:30 a.m. – 9:30 a.m. **Actuarial Reviews – How to Achieve Better Results**
Hayden Burrus, principal actuary
HB Actuarial Services
- 9:30 a.m. – 10:30 a.m. **Brain Injury - Better Outcomes from Intensive Residential Rehab**
April Groff, PhD, regional program director
Learning Services
- 10:30 a.m. – 11:00 a.m. **Refreshment Break**
- 11:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. **The Post-Covid Workforce: Building the Infrastructure**
Debra Lord, president
Paragon Ready Services
- 12:00 p.m. – 1:15 p.m. **Group Lunch**
- 1:15 p.m. – 2:30 p.m. **How to Defend Extended Benefits**
Bruce Hamilton, *Teague Campbell*
Sarah Blair, *Anders Newton*
Jennifer Blackman, *The Law Office of Jennifer Jerzak Blackman, PLLC*
Moderator: Larry Baker, *Willson Jones Carter & Baxley*
- 2:30 p.m. – 2:35 p.m. **Closing Remarks, Door Prizes**
Stephanie Gay, president
NC Association of Self-Insurers

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About the Speakers

Eleasa Harris Allen, partner at Robinson & Lawing, is a graduate of UNC Chapel Hill and Wake Forest University School of Law.

Philip Baddour, chair, NC Industrial Commission, is a graduate of UNC Chapel Hill and Campbell University's law school. Earlier in his career, he practiced law in Goldsboro, primarily representing plaintiffs in workers' compensation and tort litigation, and as an assistant attorney general in the NC Department of Justice.

Larry Baker is a graduate of Alma College (Michigan) and Wake Forest University School of Law. He has been named to US News Best Lawyers for Workers' Compensation Law for 2018 through 2020.

Jennifer Blackman is a graduate of Wake Forest University School of Law and has been practicing in the area of workers' compensation for 20 years.

Sarah Blair, AV-rated in workers' compensation law, is a graduate of North Carolina State University and Campbell Law School.

Hayden Burrus, principal actuary at HB Actuarial Services, is a workers' compensation consulting actuary with more than 25 years of experience.

Rita Dorry received her undergraduate degree from North Carolina State University and her law degree from North Carolina Central University School of Law.

Stephanie Gay, president, Aegis Administrative Services in Raleigh, graduated from Meredith College. Early in her career, she was a financial analyst at Dun & Bradstreet.

Jim Gillen began his career with the NC Industrial Commission in 1994 and worked in several capacities before he was appointed commissioner in 2019. He is a graduate of North Carolina State University and Campbell University's law school.

Myra Griffin, vice chair, NC Industrial Commission, is a graduate of UNC Chapel Hill and of North Carolina Central University School of Law. Prior to joining the Commission, she was an assistant attorney general with the tort claims section of the N.C. Department of Justice.

Brian Groesser, of counsel, director of NC operations, at Midkiff, Muncie & Ross is a graduate of the University of Michigan and North Carolina Central University School of Law.

April Groff, PhD, is a licensed neuropsychologist and Regional Program Director for Learning Services.

Bruce Hamilton, a partner in Teague Campbell, graduated from Tulane University and the University of Virginia School of Law.

Jeff Kadis, chair of Hedrick Gardner's workers' compensation practice group, is a graduate of UNC Chapel Hill and Wake Forest University School of Law.

Bob Kaylor is a graduate of East Carolina University and the University of North Carolina School of Law.

Debra Lord, PT, president of Paragon Ready Services, is a graduate of UNC Chapel Hill.

Kristine Prati, a graduate of the State University of New York at Buffalo, received her law degree from the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign.

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Registrant(s) _____

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FEES

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*fees cover registration for two attendees

ONLINE REGISTRATION

To pay by credit card, please visit www.ncselfinsurers.com and click on the "annual conference" tab. Once you've paid your fees you will be automatically registered.

Sponsorships

Platinum	\$1,000
Gold	\$500
Bronze	\$350

Return registration form and check payable to:

NC Association of Self-Insurers
to Moby Salahuddin, Executive Director
215 Holly Ridge Lane
West Columbia, SC 29169

Telephone: 803-794-2080
Mobysal@outlook.com