

Monday, August 31, 2026

WELCOME & AWARDS PRESENTATION

(Salons 1-6)

8:00 a.m. – 8:30 a.m.

Networking Break (Exhibitors & Sponsors)

8:30 a.m. – 9:15 a.m.

Welcome

Kids' Chance of Georgia Presentation

2026 Dr. Tom S. Howell Memorial Award Presentation

2026 Spirit Award Presentation

Delece A. Brooks

Executive Director/Chief Operating Officer
State Board of Workers' Compensation

Honorable Ben Vinson

Chairman and Chief Appellate Judge
State Board of Workers' Compensation

Lynda Snyder-Smith

Executive Director – Kids' Chance of Georgia

Monday, August 31, 2026

MEDICAL SESSION

(Salons 1-6)

9:30 a.m. – 10:30 a.m.

MRI 101 – Riding the Waves of Imaging

Join us for an informative panel discussion that takes a practical, real-world look at how MRI imaging quality and timing directly influence patient outcomes, clinical decision-making, and claims management. Panelists will explore what defines a high-quality MRI, common causes of poor or non-diagnostic images, and how image quality can affect diagnosis accuracy, treatment planning, and downstream care. The discussion will also examine the pros and cons of early MRI utilization, including when early imaging adds value — and when it may introduce unnecessary cost, confusion, or delays. From a claims and utilization standpoint, speakers will discuss how imaging decisions impact authorization, treatment pathways, claim duration, and overall cost of care.

Kim Oliver – Georgia Department of Administrative Services (Moderator)

Jeremy Royal, M.D. – Northside Radiology Associates

Dr. Andrew Shofoluwe, D.O. – Resurgens Orthopaedics

William Brady, D.O. – Peachtree Orthopedics

Cynthia Stanfield, Claims Supervisor – Georgia Administrative Services

CASE MANAGEMENT SESSIONS

(Trammell, Devore & Dodd)

9:30 a.m. – 10:30 a.m.

When Life is Not a Beach

Life's not always a day at the beach, especially when complex injuries crash onto the shore, altering every aspect of a person's life. In this interactive session, we will dive beneath the surface to explore the real-world ripples of life-changing injuries, stepping into the shoes of those who have been swept up in this turbulent tide.

Tina Booker, RN, BSN, CCM, LLC – Catastrophic Rehabilitation Supplier (Moderator)

Joshua Schuette, DPT, MBA, M.E.S.S, CFCE, WRP, Director of National Workers' Compensation

Sales and Account Management – Brooks Rehabilitation

Scott Hoskins, MSPO, CP, LP, Prosthetist and Team Lead – Shamrock Prosthetics

10:30 a.m. – 11:00 a.m.

Networking Break (Exhibitors & Sponsors)

11:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

Sandcastles vs. Sink Holes

A continuation of our first session, this panel presentation aims to build deeper empathy, improve professional practice and foster a more human centered approach to care and advocacy. We aim to create foundations of trust and understanding, where empathy and professional practice come together to form a strong, supportive framework for those in need. Through this session, we'll explore how to **fortify** our practices against these sinkholes, ensuring we focus on building **sandcastles** of empathy, understanding, and human-centered advocacy that last long after the tides of hardship have passed.

Peggy Freedman, OTR/L – The Freedman Group (Moderator)

Brandi Milford, MS, CRC, CCM – Milford Medical Management

Emily Cade, LPC – Cade Therapy Services

Kelly Edens, CTRS, Recreation Therapy Manager – Shepherd Center

Candace Owens, RN/BSN/Travelers Medical Professional– Travelers

MEDICAL SESSION

(Salons 1-6)

11:00 a.m-12:00 p.m.

Baywatch: AI on Duty for Predictive Planning in Spine Surgery

Come watch this live/recorded spine surgery and discussion about the use of artificial intelligence, robotic-assisted spine surgery, and how they are transforming operative planning for better outcomes. This presentation evaluates the potential of AI-driven predictive modeling to improve surgical precision, optimize outcomes, and decrease the risk of adjacent level degeneration.

Wayne Kelley, Jr., M.D. - OrthoGeorgia Orthopaedic Specialists

12:00 p.m. – 1:00 p.m.

Lunch on your own

LEGAL SESSION

(Salons 1-6)

1:00 p.m. – 2:30 p.m.

Anchored In Persuasion: Live Appellate Oral Arguments

In this ever-popular presentation, the State Board of Workers' Compensation welcomes you to observe two live Appellate oral arguments involving actual cases with notable litigation issues. The moderator will preface each argument with an objective summary of the facts, before turning it over to the lawyers to argue before the Appellate Division Judges. This is a unique presentation sure to be enjoyed by anyone connected to the workers' compensation system.

Michelle Thomas, (Interim) Appellate Division Director, State Board of Workers' Compensation (Moderator)

Honorable Ben Vinson, Chairman & Chief Appellate Judge – State Board of Workers' Compensation

Honorable Frank R. McKay, Director & Appellate Judge – State Board of Workers' Compensation

Honorable Neera Bahl, Director & Appellate Judge – State Board of Workers' Compensation

INSURANCE / SELF-INSURANCE SESSION

(Salons 2&3)

1:00 p.m. – 2:30 p.m.

How Artificial Intelligence is Charting New Waters in Workers' Compensation

Please join our panel of industry experts as they discuss the current AI trends impacting workers' compensation.

Meredith Knight, Esq. – MGC Law (Moderator)

Honorable Sharon H. Reeves, Administrative Law Judge – State Board of Workers' Compensation

Treesie Richins – Discount Tires

Hector Cano, VP of Workers' Compensation Claims – Frank Winston Crum Insurance
Thomas Alexander Jr., MD Optim Orthopedics
Rodney McColloch, Esq. – Moore Ingram Johnson & Steele, LLP

2:30 p.m. – 3:00 p.m.

Networking Break (Exhibitors & Sponsors)

LEGAL SESSION

(Salons 1-6)

3:00 p.m. – 4:30 p.m.

Between Surf and Shore: Read the Water and Then Learn the Rules

First, the tide comes in with a mock trial presentation of a workers' compensation hearing involving the often-tempestuous issues surrounding light duty job offers and the return-to-work process, as well as the associated payment or suspension of indemnity benefits. In part two, the tide goes out, to allow our panel to discuss and instruct on the practical aspects of the issues covered during the mock trial.

Kelly Speir, Esq. – Levy, Sibley, Foreman & Speir, LLC (Co-Moderator)

Todd Ross, Esq. – Todd Ross Law (Co-Moderator)

Matthew Liverman, Esq. – Cruz & Associates (Co-Moderator)

Honorable Nicole Tifverman, Administrative Law Judge - State Board of Workers' Compensation

Kelly Bentley, Director of Claims – CompTrust

Carrie Annis, Esq. – Stottlemeyer & Associates

Matthew Gettinger, Esq. – Sutton Law Group

INSURANCE / SELF-INSURANCE SESSION

(Salons 2&3)

3:00 p.m. – 4:30 p.m.

Under the Surface: Addressing Violence in the Workplace

Come listen to a seasoned expert with the Alpharetta Police Department on how to respond to active shooters, fights, fire emergencies and other workplace events.

Alissa Atkins, Esq. – Atkins David Smith, LLC (Co-Moderator)

William N. Anderson, Esq. – Hamilton, Westby, Antonowich & Anderson, LLC (Co-Moderator)

Harold Soffeitt – Alpharetta Police Department, Community Services Division

Tuesday, September 1, 2026

BREAKFAST WITH MEDICAL EXPERTS

(Salons 4,5,6)

7:30 a.m. - 8:30 a.m.

Dive in: Waves of Innovation

Please join this panel of orthopedic experts for breakfast as they dive into current conversations shaping the orthopedic field. The discussion will highlight the importance of clinical excellence and advancing patient care for injured workers within the Workers' Compensation system, while examining emerging trends, best practices, and opportunities to improve outcomes.

Jill Jacobs, Team Rehabilitation and Physical Therapy (Moderator)

Christopher Edwards, M.D. -Founder & Principal Spine Surgeon, Atlanta Neurological & Spine Institute

Mohit Datta, M.D. –Neurologist, Atlanta Neurological & Spine Institute

William Epps, M.D. – Alliance Spine and Pain Centers

Steven Rayappa, M.D. –Regenerative Orthopaedics and Spine Institute

8:00 a.m. - 8:30 a.m.

Networking Break (Exhibitors & Sponsors)

CASE MANAGEMENT SESSION

(Salons 2 & 3)

9:00 a.m. - 10:30 a.m.

Under the Boardwalk: Navigating the Tides of Housing & Transportation

Please join this panel of experts in both case management and insurance fields as they discuss how external pressures like housing instability, immigration status, and transportation barriers often lurk beneath the surface, creating rough waters for workers navigating their claims. These factors can impact medical treatment compliance, return-to-work timelines, and even the credibility of a case — making it harder for workers to stay afloat in the claims process.

Lori Ellwood, RN, ONC, Spine Center Director/Clinical Risk Manager – Resurgens Orthopaedics (Moderator)

Lori Tidwell, Risk Management – C.W. Matthews Contracting Company

Dustin Thompson, Esq. – Castan, Lecca & Boeschen

Benjamin Leonard, Esq. – Managing Partner, Atlanta Offices of Cipriani & Werner PC

Ruby Prior, Executive Director of Care Coordination – Wellstar Kennestone Hospital

Susan Vian Caston, MS, CRC, CCM, CDMS – The Comprehensive Care Group, Inc.

LEGAL SESSION (Part I)

(Salon 1)

9:00 a.m. – 9:40 a.m.

A Day at the Beach: Surfing the Waves of a Georgia Workers' Compensation Claim

A lively panel discussion with a claimant's attorney, defense attorney, and claims professional, exploring important statutory timelines and deadlines over the course of a workers' compensation claim. The discussion will address key reporting and notice deadlines from all three perspectives and provide strategy and insight into best practices, so you don't get trapped in the undertow and sink your claim.

Thea Nanton-Persaud, Esq. – Swift, Currie, McGhee & Hiers, LLP (Moderator)

Linda Ravitz – PMA

Rebecca Halberg, Esq. – Halberg Law Firm, LLC

Daniel Richardson, Esq. – Quinteros, Prieto, Wood & Boyer, P.A.

Humberto Izquierdo, Esq. – Law Office of Humberto Izquierdo

Fred Green, Esq. – Law Offices of Fred Green

LEGAL SESSION (Part II)

(Salon 1)

9:45 a.m. – 10:30 a.m.

Beach Blanket Basics: Understanding the Basic Workers' Compensation Toolkit

A spirited panel discussion including an Administrative Law Judge, claims professional, claimant's attorney, and defense attorney covering the foundational, but often overlooked, "tools" and forms involved in everyday claims handling. Join us to hear the insights and perspectives of experienced professionals across the claims' spectrum to help you safely navigate the shifting currents of Georgia workers' compensation.

Roberta Mike – Strategic Comp (Moderator)

Honorable Liesa Gholson, Administrative Law Judge – State Board of Workers' Compensation

Jan Hoard, Claims Manager – Georgia Municipal Association

Joseph Brown, Esq. – Smith, Wallace, & Scott

Alex Ficker, Esq. – Swift, Currie, McGhee, & Hiers, LLP

Chris Gifford, Esq. – Chris Gifford Law

10:30 a.m. – 11:00 a.m.

Networking Break (Exhibitors & Sponsors)

CASE MANAGEMENT SESSION

(Salons 2 & 3)

11:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

Navigating the Waves: Managed Care & Rehabilitation Straight from the Source

Ever feel like you're swimming against the current when it comes to managed care and rehabilitation requirements? Grab your surfboard and join staff from the State Board of Workers' Compensation's Managed Care and Rehabilitation Division for a candid shoreside conversation. Panelists will share updates, address common compliance questions, and offer practical guidance — so you can ride the wave instead of getting caught in the undertow.

Michelle Lutz Hays – The Comprehensive Care Group (Moderator)

Neil Thom, Division Director, Managed Care & Rehab – State Board of Workers' Compensation

Paullin Judin, Rehabilitation Coordinator – State Board of Workers' Compensation

Jocelyn Goss, Rehabilitation Coordinator – State Board of Workers' Compensation

Maggie Bessent, Compliance Specialist – State Board of Workers' Compensation

LEGAL SESSION

(Salon 1)

11:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

Shifting Sands: Recent Decisions Redrawing the Georgia Workers' Compensation Landscape

A shore-to-shore look at the most recent Georgia Workers' Compensation decisions from the State Board, Court of Appeals, and Georgia Supreme Court — separating the ripples from the rulings which could reshape the coastline.

Michelle Miller, Esq. – MCM Mediations (Moderator)

Honorable David Imahara, Chief Administrative Law Judge - State Board of Workers' Compensation

Wes McDaniel, Esq. – Hansford McDaniel

Eric Trivett, Esq. – Speed, Seta, Trivett, Stubley & Fickling, LLC

Karisa Kopaczewski Klee, Esq. – J. Franklin Burns, PC

12:00 p.m. – 1:00 p.m.

Lunch on your own

MEDICAL SESSION

(Salon 2 & 3)

1:00 p.m. – 2:30 p.m.

IMEs at High Tide: Avoiding Pitfalls with Independent Medical Evaluations

Independent Medical Examinations (IMEs) play a critical role in resolving complex clinical, legal, and disability-related questions — but knowing **when** to request an IME and **how** to assess its quality can be challenging. This dynamic, multidisciplinary session brings together physicians, attorneys, and experienced IME professionals for a practical, interactive discussion on best practices in the IME process.

Shay Velsor, VP of Business Development – Emperion

Shane Mangrum, M.D. – Axion Spine & Neurosurgery

Randy McKinney, VP of Operations – Emperion

Andrea Owen, Esq. – Speed, Seta, Martin, Trivett, Stubley & Fickling, LLC

Carrie Annis, Esq. – Stottlemeyer & Associates, LLC

Matthews Gwynn, M.D. – Atlanta Neurology

INSURANCE / SELF-INSURANCE SESSION

(Salon 1)

1:00 p.m. – 2:30 p.m.

Beachside Briefing: Practical Strategies for Today's Risk Management Challenges

No Lifeguard needed – we've got risk covered! In this session, industry experts will chart a course through today's most challenging risk management trends and share strategies for managing them.

Jeff Stinson, Esq. – Swift, Currie, McGhee & Hiers, LLP

Deric Hayden, Director of Safety and Workers' Compensation – Goodwill

Ursula Pickett, Risk Management – Kenco

Jerry DeLoach, Chief Risk Officer – City of Atlanta

Kimberly Burnside, VP – CNA

2:30 p.m.-3:00 p.m.

Networking Break (Exhibitors & Sponsors)

MEDICAL SESSION

(Salons 2 & 3)

3:00 p.m. – 4:30 p.m.

Managing the Rip Tides of Workers' Compensation

This interactive medical education session explores one of the most challenging issues in workers' compensation: distinguishing degenerative change from a new injury and determining when an aggravation has occurred. Through real-world case discussions, participants will examine the medical, biomechanical, and legal principles that guide accurate causation analysis. A multidisciplinary panel, including experienced physicians and workers' compensation attorneys will provide practical insights into documentation, case formulation, and navigating disputes. Attendees will gain clearer frameworks for evaluating complex presentations and effectively communicating findings within the medicolegal environment.

Michael Schurdell, M.D. – The Physicians (Moderator)

Anil Thomas, M.D. – Peachtree Orthopaedics

Gary Stewart, M.D. – Resurgens Orthopedics

George Waters, Esq. – Eraclides | Gelman

Wednesday, September 2, 2026

ETHICS SESSIONS

(Salons 1-6)

8:30 a.m. – 9:00 a.m.

Opening Remarks

Delece A. Brooks, Executive Director/Chief Operating Officer – State Board of Workers' Compensation

H. Michael Bagley, Esq., SBWC Ethics Steering Committee Chair – Drew Eckl & Farnham, LLP

9:00 a.m. – 10:30 a.m.

High Tides, High Stakes: Ethics and the Rise of AI

As AI becomes increasingly integrated into Georgia's workers' compensation system, stakeholders face new ethical challenges involving confidentiality, accuracy, bias, transparency, and professional judgment. This panel will examine how AI is reshaping our day-to-day work and explore how we can ensure that technology enhances - rather than replaces - human decision-making and accountability.

Megan Boyd – Recent GSU Professor; Member of State Bar Subcommittee on Technology
Ben Gerber, Esq. – Gerber & Elkins
Hunter Garrett, Esq. – Drew Eckl & Farnham, LLP
Colleen Morris, VP – ExamWorks
John Chao, M.D. – Peachtree Orthopedics
Honorable Johnny Mason, Administrative Law Judge – State Board of Workers' Compensation

10:30 a.m. – 11:00 a.m.

Networking Break (Exhibitors & Sponsors)

11:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

Storming the Beaches: War Stories from Seasoned Veterans

The longer one spends in the workers' compensation system, the more ethical dilemmas they face – and the more insight they gain from navigating those dilemmas. This discussion will explore professionalism, integrity, and judgment through real-world stories and hard-earned perspectives.

Tash Van Dora, Esq. – Van Dora Law Firm

Perry Sartain, Esq. – Sartain Law Offices

Suzanne Cowan – Travelers

Honorable Melodie Belcher, Administrative Law Judge – State Board of Workers' Compensation

Paullin Judin, Rehabilitation Coordinator – State Board of Workers' Compensation

12:00 p.m. – 12:15 p.m.

2026 SBWC Adjuster of the Year ACE Award presentation (Adjuster Committed to Excellence)

Honorable Ben Vinson – Chairman and Chief Appellate Judge – State Board of Workers' Compensation

Inaugural award presented to **Nicolas Alonso** with Liberty Mutual for his committee to excellence in claims adjusting in Georgia!

12:15 p.m. – 1:15 p.m.

Riding the Waves of Change: The Science of Thriving Under Pressure

Keynote Speaker: Kien Vuu, M.D.

In a world of accelerating change, increasing complexity, and rapidly evolving technology, our greatest advantage is not simply how quickly we adapt, but the state from which we respond. In this engaging and experiential keynote, Dr. Kien Vuu explores how stress, environment, and conscious choice shape the way we think, communicate, make decisions, and lead.

Drawing from medicine, human performance, resilience science, and his own personal journey, Dr. Vuu will share practical tools to help attendees navigate pressure with greater clarity, integrity, connection, and purpose. Participants will leave with a deeper understanding of how their individual choices influence not only their own well-being and performance, but also the people and systems around them.

The session will connect directly to the conference theme of navigating change while reinforcing the importance of ethical leadership and human-centered decision-making within the workers' compensation ecosystem.

[Adjuster Program next page]
Georgia State Board of Workers' Compensation

**2026 Fourth Annual Workers' Compensation
Insurance Adjuster Training Program***

*(*Note: Prior Registration is Required to Attend the Adjuster Training Program)*

August 31, 2026 – September 2, 2026
The Hotel at Avalon – Alpharetta, Georgia

PROGRAM AGENDA

“All Adjusters on Deck: Charting a Course for Excellence in Workers' Compensation”

MONDAY, AUGUST 31, 2026

(Trammel, DeVore & Dodd Meeting Room)

2:00 p.m. – 2:40 p.m. Registration/Check-In

2:45 p.m. – 4:30 p.m. Surfing Safari Camp

From sunscreen and riptides, to how to catch a wave (and look great in the process), this session will prepare you for success during the impending two days on the workers' compensation beach. The presentation will include building block knowledge of how the Georgia Workers' Compensation System is organized and functions, who has the burden of proof, what is the standard of review for such, and what qualifies as a “compensable injury.” The second part of our “camp” will set the stage for how to begin to navigate the medical aspect of a claim, including a discussion of the Employer Posted Panel of Physicians, the rights each party may (or may not) have to an IME, to a change in doctors, a PMT conference, and more.

R. Briggs Peery, Esq. – Swift, Currie, McGhee & Hiers, LLP
Jim Anderson, Esq. – Drew Eckl & Farnham, LLP

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 1, 2026

(Trammel, DeVore & Dodd Meeting Room)

7:30 a.m. – 8:25 a.m. Coffee & Muffins Registration/Check-In

8:25 a.m. – 8:30 a.m. Welcome and Introduction

Hon. Ben Vinson, Chairman and Chief Appellate Judge – SBWC

8:30 a.m. – 9:20 a.m. Select the Best Spot on the Beach!

Forms Part 1: Join this seasoned panel of experts as they dive into the initial process of filing forms, ICMS registration, and more.

C. Wade McGuffey, Jr., Esq. – Mozley, Finlayson & Loggins LLP

9:20 a.m. – 10:10 a.m. How to Avoid the Sandbar and Not Get Caught in the Riptide

Forms Part 2: Join us for a deeper dive into the discussion on forms and potential litigation issues.

C. Wade McGuffey, Jr., Esq. – Mozley, Finlayson & Loggins LLP
Hon. David Imahara, Chief ALJ – SBWC
Sharee L. Tumbling, Esq. – Moore Ingram Johnson & Steele, LLP

10:10 a.m. – 11:00 a.m. Boogie Board Wipeout: How to Overcome Reluctancy to Get Back into the Water

An informative discussion on return-to-work guidelines and WC-240 issues.

Tracy T. Leonard, Esq. – Savell & Williams LLP
Matthew Pittman, Esq. – Cipriani & Werner, P.C.

11:00 a.m. – 12:30 p.m. Lunch & Visit with Exhibitors

12:30 p.m. – 1:20 p.m. Beach Advisory: Sharks in the Water!

A panel discussion on how to spot fraud in workers' compensation and what you can do to help.

Carl W. McCalla, III, Esq. – Constangy, Brooks, Smith & Prophete, LLP
Steve Figliuolo, Risk Manager – Chick-fil-A, Inc.
Doug Williams, Criminal Investigator, Enforcement Division – SBWC

1:20 p.m. – 2:10 p.m. FMLA/ADA Vice with Crockett and Hubbs: You've Got to Know the Rules Before You Can Break 'Em

The similarities and dissimilarities in rules for FMLA/ADA versus workers' compensation and AI's growing part in all three systems. Keeping an eye on AI.

Fred L. Hubbs, Jr., Esq. – Hall Booth Smith, P.C.
Jeffrey M. Daitz, Esq. – Hall Booth Smith, P.C.

2:10 p.m. – 2:30 p.m. Break

2:30 p.m. – 3:20 p.m. Rehab to the Rescue: Rehab doesn't just pull you out of the water, it gives you the life jacket, teaches you how to float, and helps you find your way back to shore.

An informative panel discussion on the essentials of case management – when to refer, the types of rehabilitation, and what an adjuster's duties and expectations are.

Tina Booker, RN, BSN, CCM – Catastrophic Rehab Supplier
Michelle Lutz Hays – The Comprehensive Care Group, Inc.

3:20 p.m. – 4:10 p.m. Navigating the Tide: Mental Health in Workers' Comp

Charting a course to identify mental health concerns and support for the injured worker, their crew, and their claim.

Dr. Gary James – Atlanta NeuroHealth + Wellness

Tara Roland, M.Ed, CCM, CRC – Rehabilitation Management

Alejandra N. Klopstock, LPC, CFMHE, CRC – Psychotherapy Clinic for Change, Inc.

Jolie Powell – Engaged Nursing Care, LLC

Amy Middlebrooks, RN-BC, CCM, VP of Operations – TRIUNE Health Group, Inc.

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 2, 2026

(Trammel, DeVore & Dodd Meeting Room)

7:00 a.m. – 8:00 a.m. Continental Breakfast

8:00 a.m. – 8:50 a.m. Wipeout from the Big Wave! How to Get Back on Your Board

Discussion on causation and determination for a total knee replacement.

Jonathan D. Gillig, M.D. – Resurgens Orthopaedics

8:50 a.m. – 9:40 a.m. “Hakuna Matata” – Ensuring Your Settlement is a Day at the Beach!

A seasoned panel of experts will discuss the settlement approval process, from reaching resolution and drafting settlement documents, to the Board's review and ultimate approval of the settlement.

Michelle Thomas, Settlement Division Director – SBWC

Cannon C. Alsobrook, Esq. – Savell & Williams, LLP (SBWC Settlements Advisory Committee)

Jason Perkins, Esq. – Perkins Studdard LLC (SBWC Settlements Advisory Committee)

9:40 a.m. – 10:30 a.m. Avoid Becoming Shark Bait: Admissibility, Hearsay, Privilege and Credibility

Join this session of distinguished panelists to learn about the “4 Big Rules to Survival in the Rough Sea of Evidence.”

Hon. Frank R. McKay, Director & Appellate Judge– SBWC

Hon. David Imahara, Chief ALJ – SBWC

Todd A. Brooks, Esq. – Swift, Currie, McGhee & Hiers, LLP

10:30 a.m. – 11:00 a.m. Visit with the Exhibitors & Transition to Ethics Sessions

(Salons 1,4,5 & 6)

11:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. Ethics Session 1: Storming the Beaches: War Stories from Seasoned Veterans

A panel discussion by seasoned professionals from the legal, insurance, judicial, and case management fields within Georgia workers' compensation. The panelists will share their wisdom on various ethical issues and their resolution, both in the abstract and from their own experiences.

Tash Van Dora, Esq. – The Van Dora Law Firm
Perry Sartain, Esq. – Sartain Law Offices
Sue Cowan – Travelers Insurance Company
Hon. Melodie Belcher – SBWC
Paullin Judin, Managed Care & Rehab Division – SBWC

(Salons 1,4,5 & 6)

12:00 p.m. – 12:15 p.m. Presentation of the 2026 SBWC Adjuster of the Year “ACE Award” (Adjuster Committed to Excellence)

Hon. Ben Vinson, Chairman and Chief Appellate Judge – SBWC

(Salons 1,4,5 & 6)

12:15 p.m. – 1:15 p.m. Ethics Session 2: Keynote Speaker, Kien (“Dr. V”) Vuu, M.D.

Riding the Waves of Change: The Science of Thriving Under Pressure

In a world of accelerating change, increasing complexity, and rapidly evolving technology, our greatest advantage is not simply how quickly we adapt, but the state from which we respond. In this engaging and experiential keynote, Dr. Kien Vuu explores how stress, environment, and conscious choice shape the way we think, communicate, make decisions, and lead. Drawing from medicine, human performance, resilience science, and his own personal journey, Dr. Vuu will share practical tools to help attendees navigate pressure with greater clarity, integrity, connection, and purpose. Participants will leave with a deeper understanding of how their individual choices influence not only their own well-being and performance, but also the people and systems around them. The session will connect directly to the conference theme of navigating change while reinforcing the importance of ethical leadership and human-centered decision-making within the workers' compensation ecosystem.

1:15 p.m. End of Program

*****Don't Forget to Pick up Your Certificate from the Adjuster Training Registration Area!*****