

Advanced Workers' Compensation

Savannah, GA - March 8, 2016

Early Registration

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 - PACE 8.0
- CRCC, CDMS & CCMC 6.5
See inside for details.

PRESENTED BY:

The Honorable Nicole D. Tifverman, *State Board of Workers' Compensation*

Thomas G. Whatley, Jr., *Howard and Whatley, P.C.*

Charles W. Snyder, *Law Offices of Charles W. Snyder*

John D. Blair, *Levy, Thompson, Sibley & Hand, LLC*

Paul H. Felser, *Felser Law Firm, P.C.*

Jonathan M. C. Johnston, *Hasner Law PC*

(See complete biographies inside)

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Early Registration

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Advanced Workers' Compensation

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AGENDA

- I. Overview of Federal Workers' Compensation for Injured Federal Employees**
 - A. Causation and the medical burden of proof
 - B. Third-party claims under the Federal Employee Compensation Act (FECA)
- II. The First 90 Days**
 - A. Panel doctor? What panel doctor?
 - B. Disability and documentation
 - C. WC-102 responses
 - D. Unintended consequences of the "81-day rule"
 - E. To litigate or not to litigate? That is the question
- III. Idiopathic Injuries Under Georgia Workers' Compensation**
 - A. The meaning of "idiopathic"
 - B. "Unexplained falls" – a slippery slope
 - C. "Positional Risk" vs. "Peculiar to Employment"
 - D. Johnson v. Publix – a failed attempt at clarification
 - E. Chaparral Boats – the sinking of positional risk
 - F. Recent cases – custodians pick up pills, but nurses don't
- IV. Jurisdictional Issues on the Waterfront: Concurrent Longshore Claims and Jones Act/Maritime Suits**
 - A. Concurrent claims under the U.S. Longshore and Harbor Workers' Compensation Act
 - B. Pre-emptive Jones Act and general maritime suits
- V. Workers' Compensation Updates**
 - A. Legislative
 - B. Case law
 - C. Coming attractions: what changes are next in WC
- VI. Ethics and Today's Practitioner**
 - A. Declining civility in the legal profession
 - B. Ethics and attorneys who blog
 - C. Current lawyer advertising and marketing ethics
 - D. Other challenges in today's workers' compensation law practice
 - E. Ethical hypotheticals
- VII. A View from the Bench**

Viewpoints from a professional on practicing workers' compensation in the current times

Sterling Education Services may alter the agenda due to circumstances beyond our control.

WHAT OUR CUSTOMERS ARE SAYING

"I was at a seminar on a similar topic last week. I found this [seminar] to be more welcoming, comfortable, and comprehensive."
-Associate Attorney, East Hartford, CT

*"Just wanted you to know that this was the best CLE I've ever attended. The speakers were practical, and I learned much. Thank you!
. . . I will tell my colleagues to look for Sterling Education Services CLE in the future."*
-Mary R., Missouri

DATE & TIME

DATE: Tuesday, March 8, 2016
REGISTRATION: 8:00 a.m.
PRESENTATIONS: 8:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.
LUNCH: 12:00 - 1:00 p.m.
Lunch is on your own

LOCATION

45 Bistro
123 East Broughton Street
Savannah, GA 31401
912-234-3111
Map available online

WHO SHOULD ATTEND

- Attorneys
- Benefits Professionals
- Disability Specialists
- Rehabilitation Specialists
- Vocational Rehabilitation Counselors
- Expert Witnesses
- Safety Directors
- Business Managers
- Workers' Compensation Administrators
- Human Resource Professionals
- Insurance Claims Processors
- Risk Managers
- Occupational Health Nurses
- Other WC Professionals

SUMMARY

According to the U.S. Department of Labor, every year millions of full time private industry employees report nonfatal workplace injuries or illnesses. Each case is a potential minefield to be navigated, and without the most up-to-date information on workers' compensation legislation and practices, the results can be devastating. Our speakers will provide you with insightful analysis of the most significant recent developments in this complex and dynamic area of the law, allowing you to handle incidents and counsel clients with confidence. **Register today!**

Please bring your license number, ID, or other necessary information to the seminar to ensure proper reporting of continuing education credit.

CONTINUING EDUCATION CREDIT

GA CLE

This seminar has been **approved** by the **Commission on Continuing Lawyer Competency of the State Bar of Georgia** for MCLE credit in the amount of **6.7 hours**, including **1.0 hour of ethics**.

GA Insurance

This seminar has been submitted to the **Georgia Department of Insurance** for **8.0 continuing education credit hours**. Approval is expected. *Call for details.*

SC CLE

This seminar has been **approved** by the **South Carolina Supreme Court Commission on CLE and Specialization** for **6.67 credit hours**, including **1.0 hour of ethics**.

ABIH

ABIH has previously awarded CM credit for this event. The current event contains **6.5 hours** which can be claimed for **CM credit**.

CSP Point

This course may qualify for **0.6 points** for **Certified Safety Professionals (CSP)**.

CRCC CDMS CCMC

This seminar has been **approved** by the **Commission on Rehabilitation Counselor Certification (CRCC)**, the **Certification of Disability Management Specialists Commission (CDMS)**, and the **Case Manager Commission (CCMC)** for **6.5 clock hours**.

PACE

This seminar satisfies requirements for up to **8.0 hours** of **PACE Recertification credit** for **CLU, RHU, REBC, CLF and ChFC**.



This seminar has been **approved** for **6.75 general recertification credit hours** toward the **PHR, SPHR, HRBP, HRMP, and GPHR** recertification through the **HR Certification Institute**. For more information about Human Resource certification or recertification, please visit www.hrci.org.

Other continuing education credit may be available. Please **contact Sterling** to inquire.

MEET THE FACULTY

THE HONORABLE NICOLE D. TIFVERMAN is an Administrative Law Judge with the Georgia State Board of Workers' Compensation in Savannah. Prior to her appointment as an ALJ in 2011, she practiced workers' compensation law for twenty-four years, representing employees, employers, and insurers. She hears cases in Savannah, Claxton, and Millen, and also mediates when her schedule permits. Judge Tifverman received her B.A., with highest distinction, from the University of Rhode Island and her J.D. from Emory University School of Law.

THOMAS G. WHATLEY, Jr., a partner of Howard & Whatley, P.C. in Savannah, represents employers and insurers in workers' compensation cases throughout the state in claims pending before the Georgia State Board of Workers' Compensation. Mr. Whatley also handles civil actions involving insurance defense litigation in state and superior courts. He is a member of the Atlanta Bar Association, the Savannah Bar Association, the State Bar of Georgia, the Defense Research Institute, the Georgia Defense Lawyers Association, and the Lawyers Foundation of Georgia. Mr. Whatley received his B.B.A. from the Terry College of Business at the University of Georgia and his J.D. from Emory University School of Law, where he was a member of the Emory Law School Moot Court Special Teams.

CHARLES W. SNYDER, a sole practitioner of the Law Offices of Charles W. Snyder in Savannah, specializes in the areas of workers' compensation, personal injury law, and Social Security. He is a member of the State Bar of Georgia, the Georgia Trial Lawyers Association, and the Savannah Trial Lawyers Association. Mr. Snyder received his B.A. from Boston University and his J.D. from the University of Georgia School of Law.

JOHN D. BLAIR, of Levy, Thompson, Sibley & Hand, LLC in Savannah, where his primary focus is in the areas of insurance defense, workers' compensation defense (including claims arising under the federal Longshore and Harbor Workers' Compensation Act), litigation (including Jones Act maritime cases), insurance coverage disputes, employment law, EEO defense, corporate and business law, and construction law. He is a member of the Muscogee County/Chattahoochee Valley Bar Association, the Dougherty County Circuit Bar Association, and the Federalist Society. Mr. Blair received his B.A., *magna cum laude*, from Wright State University and his J.D. from Regent University School of Law.

PAUL H. FELSER, of Felser Law Firm, P.C. in Savannah, practices in the area of federal workers' compensation and has been a governmental and political consultant. He is a member of the Savannah Bar Association, the State Bar of Georgia, the Savannah Trial Lawyers Association, and The Workplace Litigation Group. Mr. Felser received his B.A., *magna cum laude*, from the University of Georgia and his J.D. from Mercer University School of Law.

JONATHAN M. C. JOHNSTON, of Hasner Law PC in Savannah, represents injured workers in workers' compensation claims. Prior to his current firm, Mr. Johnston worked at one of the largest insurance defense firms in the state of Georgia representing employers and insurance companies. Having worked with insurance companies, he utilizes the knowledge and experience to assist injured workers in obtaining all benefits due to them under the workers' compensation laws of Georgia. Mr. Johnston received his B.A., with honors, from the University of Montana and his J.D. from Stetson University College of Law.

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Registration Fee: (includes manual)

- \$349 per person
- \$339 per person for 2 or more
- \$319 per person **if paid by February 9th**

Reference Materials:

- Add audio to your registration for \$167*
- Manual only \$95*
- Audio only \$267*
- Audio/manual package \$357*

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EMPLOYMENT LAW: BEYOND THE BASICS - Seminar # 15GA12289

Exempt or Not? The New "White Collar" Exemptions Under the FLSA; Advanced FMLA and ADA Issues; Sexual, Racial, and Other Harassment and Discrimination; Immigration Law; NLRB's Expanding Agenda; Termination Best Practices; Privacy and Social Media in the Workplace

PRESENTED BY:

Edward N. Boehm Jr. with Fisher & Phillips LLP; Cynthia J. Yarbrough with Fisher & Phillips LLP; Melanie V. Slaton with Hatcher, Stubbs, Land, Hollis & Rothschild, L.L.P.; Sandra Kaye Bowen with Irvin Bowen Hale-Smith LLC; A. McArthur Irvin with Irvin Bowen Hale-Smith LLC; and David F. Root with Carlock, Copeland & Stair, LLP

Audio & Manual Set \$155 Audio only \$95 Manual only \$75

HIRING & TERMINATING - Seminar # 14GA12337

The Pre-Hiring Process; Background Checks & Hiring Decisions; Overview of Confidentiality, Non-Compete, and Non-Solicitation Agreements; The In-Between: Keeping Good Records; The Termination Process; Information Disclosure Issues

PRESENTED BY:

Eric A. Collins with Coleman Talley LLP; C. Hansell Watt IV with Coleman Talley LLP; Jennifer C. Monroe with Langdale Vallotton, LLP; Amy P. Holbrook with Langdale Vallotton, LLP; Robert E. Larkin III with Allen Norton & Blue, P.A.; Jason E. Vail with Allen Norton & Blue, P.A.; and Jason C. Taylor with McConnaughay, Duffy, Coonrod, Pope & Weaver, P.A.

Audio & Manual Set \$155 Audio only \$95 Manual only \$75

Seminar # 16GA03087

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- **Fax:** 715-835-5132

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Walk-ins are welcome and payment is required at the door when registering. Materials will be available for walk-ins on a first-come first-served basis. **Please call ahead to confirm the schedule.**

CANCELLATIONS

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If you cancel 3 or more business days before the seminar you may:

- 1) transfer your registration to another seminar,
- 2) receive the audio and manual package, or
- 3) receive a refund minus a \$25 service charge.

PLEASE NOTE: If you do not attend and do not cancel as described above you are not entitled to a refund.

REFERENCE MATERIALS

SEMINAR MANUAL:

The faculty has prepared a substantial reference work to accompany their presentation. This manual will serve as a valuable tool for future reference. Each attendee will receive a manual upon checking in at the seminar site; the price is included in the registration fee.

AUDIO RECORDING:

This seminar will be recorded live and the audio recording and/or a reference manual is available for purchase separately or in conjunction with registration. Self-study credit may be available by purchasing the audio and manual package (varies by location). **Please call for details.**



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