

FACULTY

INSTITUTE CO-CHAIRS

JOSHUA W. LAABS

Schmidt & Salita Law Firm
Minnetonka

WHITNEY L. TEEL

Aafedt, Forde, Gray, Monson & Hager, P.A.
Minneapolis

JUDGES

HON. KARL C. PROCACCINI

Associate Justice
Minnesota Supreme Court
Saint Paul

HON. KATHRYN HIPP CARLSON

Judge
Minnesota Workers' Compensation Court of Appeals
Saint Paul

HON. JESSICA PALMER-DENIG

Chief Judge
Court of Administrative Hearings
Saint Paul

HON. VERONICA WALTHER

Deputy Chief Judge
Court of Administrative Hearings
Saint Paul

HON. STACY BOUMAN

Workers' Compensation Judge
Court of Administrative Hearings
Saint Paul

HON. LISA B. PEARSON

Workers' Compensation Judge
Court of Administrative Hearings
Saint Paul

MINNESOTA DEPARTMENT OF LABOR AND INDUSTRY

JESSICA STIMAC

Assistant Commissioner for Workers' Compensation
Minnesota DLI
Saint Paul

DOCTORS

J. CHRIS COETZEE, MD

Twin Cities Orthopedics
Edina

DANIEL LESLIE, MD

Chief, Division of Gastrointestinal/Bariatric Surgery
University of Minnesota
Director, Comprehensive Weight Management Program
University of Minnesota Health/Fairview
Minneapolis

UZMA SAMADANI, MD, PHD

Attending Neurosurgeon
Minneapolis VA Health Care System
Associate Professor, Department of Bioinformatics and
Computational Biology
University of Minnesota
Minneapolis

ANA POTTRATZ ACOSTA

Visiting Clinical Professor of Law
University of Minnesota Law School
Professor of Law
Mitchell Hamline School of Law
Minneapolis & Saint Paul

MARY BETH BOYCE

Schmidt & Salita Law Firm
Minnetonka

NORBERT CUELLAR

Cuellar Law Office
Brooklyn Center

ANNIE M. DAVIDSON

Sanderson Firm
Saint Paul

ARAM V. DESTIEAN

Bassford Remele
Minneapolis

KELLY P. FALSANI

Fitch Johnson Larson, P.A.
Roseville

JENNIFER M. FITZGERALD

Baehman Fitzgerald
Woodbury

ANDREW J. FLYNN

Erstad & Riemer, P.A.
Minneapolis

BENJAMIN J. HARPER

Osterbauer Law Firm
Minneapolis

SAMUEL A. HEACOX

Bosch Heacox
Arden Hills

JEFFREY W. JACOBS

Wilkerson & Hegna
Edina

TIMOTHY P. JUNG

Lind, Jensen, Sullivan & Peterson, P.A.
Minneapolis

MATTHEW C. KOPP

Kelly R. Rodieck & Associates
Saint Paul

KELLY B. LAMBERT

Aafedt, Forde, Gray, Monson & Hager, P.A.
Minneapolis

GRETA BAUER REYES

Stinson LLP
Minneapolis

JERRY W. SISK

Mottaz & Sisk Injury Law
Coon Rapids

KATIE H. STORMS

Aafedt, Forde, Gray, Monson & Hager, P.A.
Minneapolis

Nonprofit Org.
U.S. Postage
PAID
Minnesota Continuing
Legal Education

Minnesota Continuing
Legal Education



700 NICOLLET MALL, SUITE 200, MINNEAPOLIS MN 55402

DATED MATERIAL – PLEASE EXPEDITE!



The 2026 Workers' Compensation Institute

TUESDAY & WEDNESDAY
APRIL 28 & 29, 2026



MINNESOTA CONTINUING
LEGAL EDUCATION
Your Success Is Our Goal

ATTEND IN PERSON
TUESDAY & WEDNESDAY
APRIL 28 & 29, 2026

Minnesota CLE Conference Center
Minneapolis

The 2026

Workers' Compensation Institute

Exceptional faculty, great session lineup,
fun setting – and practical takeaways
you can put to work immediately!

- MN Supreme Court Associate Justice
Karl Procaccini
- DLI Assistant Commissioner for Workers' Compensation
Jessica Stimac
- WCCA Judge **Kathryn Hipp Carlson**
- New CAH Chief Judge **Jessica Palmer-Denig**
- Orthopedic Surgeon **Chris Coetzee, MD**
- Bariatric Surgeon and Comprehensive Weight Management Expert
Daniel Leslie, MD
- Neurosurgeon and Brain Injury Researcher
Uzma Samadani, MD, PhD
- **Plus!** Insights from **CAH Judges Veronica Walther, Stacy Bouman & Lisa Pearson** and Attorneys from Both Sides of the Aisle!

CAN'T ATTEND IN PERSON?

View the online replay May 28 & 29, 2026.

VIEW INFORMATION ON
YOUR MOBILE DEVICE OR
REGISTER ONLINE



SCHEDULE

All times are CDT.

Day 1 – New Law, New Cases & Other Timely Topics

Tuesday, April 28, 2026

8:30 – 9:00 a.m.
CHECK-IN & CONTINENTAL BREAKFAST

9:00 – 9:05 a.m.
Welcome & Introduction

– *Joshua W. Laabs & Whitney L. Teel*
2026 Institute Co-Chairs

9:05 – 10:00 a.m.
The WCAC: Where It Came From, How It Works, and Why It Matters

The Workers' Compensation Advisory Council (WCAC) plays a key role in shaping Minnesota's workers' compensation laws. This panel discussion offers a practical look at the WCAC's formation and processes – and how its work affects day-to-day practice. When and why was it formed? What does it do? Who is included? How can one get involved? How do you identify and offer WCAC records when workers' compensation law provisions are ambiguous and legislative history is limited?

– *Jerry W. Sisk, Jessica Stimac & Katie H. Storms*
– *Hon. Karl Procaccini, moderator*

10:00 – 10:30 a.m.
Update from the New CAH Chief Judge: Court Priorities in the Near and Longer Term

The newly appointed Chief Judge of the Court of Administrative Hearings – Judge Jessica Palmer-Denig – will share her perspective on CAH's role in delivering fair, accessible, and effective adjudication in workers' comp matters and outline the priorities she'll emphasize. Learn how these priorities relate to the resolution of contested cases, the application of best practices in administrative adjudication, and the court's ongoing engagement with legal practitioners and agency partners.

– *Hon. Jessica A. Palmer-Denig*

10:30 – 10:40 a.m.
BREAK

10:40 – 11:20 a.m.
It's the End of an Era! Jeff Jacobs' Popular Annual Case Update

Jeff Jacobs returns for the final installment of his popular annual case update – highlighting key workers' compensation decisions from the past year by the Minnesota Supreme Court and the Workers' Compensation Court of Appeals.

– *Jeffrey W. Jacobs*

11:20 a.m. – 12:20 p.m.
How Minnesota's New Paid Leave Law Impacts Your Workers' Comp Cases – Offsets, Intervention, and Coordination

Minnesota's new Paid Leave law adds a major new wage benefit into the mix. A workers' compensation attorney and an employment law attorney will discuss the new law and what it means in terms of offsets, benefit coordination, and potential intervention.

– *Andrew J. Flynn & Greta Bauer Reyes*

12:20 – 1:30 p.m.
LUNCH BREAK (on attendees' own)

1:30 – 2:30 p.m. BREAKOUT SESSION A

101
A Snapshot of the New DLI PTSD Report – Practical Takeaways for Evaluating and Litigating Cases

Petitioner and defense counsel present a big picture look at MN DLI's new PTSD report. What does the report say? What do the presenters wish the report had also addressed, and why? What are the practical takeaways that might shape how we evaluate and litigate PTSD cases going forward?

– *Mary Beth Boyce & Timothy P. Jung*

102
Excess Attorneys' Fees After Jurgensen

What does it take to justify attorneys' fees beyond the statutory 20%? This session examines *Jurgensen v. Dave Perkins Contracting*, emerging judicial expectations for fee support, and practical strategies for proving, or challenging, excess fee claims in Minnesota workers' compensation cases.

– *Kelly P. Falsani, Jennifer M. Fitzgerald & Hon. Kathryn Hipp Carlson*

103
Complying with New Developments in Ethics and Professional Responsibility

1.0 ethics credit applied for

– *Aram V. Desteian*

2:30 – 2:45 p.m. BREAK

2:45 – 3:45 p.m. BREAKOUT SESSION B

201
Zero Allocations and MSA Strategy

Clear guidance for evaluating and documenting MSA allocation decisions – including implications for using Zero Allocations now that CMS no longer reviews them.

– *Annie M. Davidson*

202
What To Know About Workers' Compensation Claims Involving Noncitizen Workers

– *Ana Pottratz Acosta & Samuel A. Heacox*
– *Hon. Veronica Walther, moderator*

203
Family-Provided Nursing Services for Injured Workers: Evaluating and Litigating High-Exposure Claims

– *Benjamin J. Harper*

3:45 – 4:00 p.m. BREAK

4:00 – 5:00 p.m.

PLENARY

Beyond Black Letter Law – Strategic Advocacy Around Burdens and Standards of Proof

Petitioner and defense attorneys join CAH judges to discuss strategic advocacy around burdens and standards of proof in Minnesota workers' compensation cases. The panel will examine key presumptions, effective evidence strategies, and the shift from the reasonable-grounds standard of proof at a .239 administrative conference to de novo if there's a later hearing.

– *Hon. Stacy Bouman, Norbert Cuellar, Matthew C. Kopp & Hon. Lisa B. Pearson*
– *Kelly B. Lambert, moderator*

5:00 – 6:00 p.m.
INSTITUTE RECEPTION

FOOD!
FUN!
PRIZES!

Day 2 – Medical Day

Wednesday, April 29, 2026

8:30 – 9:00 a.m.
CONTINENTAL BREAKFAST

9:00 – 9:05 a.m.
WELCOME & INTRODUCTION

9:05 – 10:05 a.m.
Don't Feel Like You Have Two Left Feet When Dealing with Ankle Injuries: Inside Insights

An orthopedic ankle injury overview featuring clinical evaluations and their outcomes.

– *J. Chris Coetzee, MD*

10:05 – 10:15 a.m.
BREAK

10:15 – 11:15 a.m.
What's New in Neurotrauma: Classification of Traumatic Brain Injury and Treatment for Spinal Cord Injury

– *Uzma Samadani, MD, PhD*

11:15 – 11:25 a.m.
BREAK

11:25 a.m. – 12:25 p.m.
Pre-Surgical Weight Loss in Work Injury Cases

When injured employees must lose weight before surgery can proceed, what treatment options are physicians recommending? Dr. Daniel Leslie explains the role of medications like GLP-1 drugs, other weight-loss approaches, timelines, risks, and success rates – and what these recommendations may mean in workers' compensation cases.

– *Daniel Leslie, MD*

BONUS

PLUS – 2 FREE POST-INSTITUTE WEBCASTS!

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 3, 2026 | 9:00 – 10:00 A.M. CT

Effective Communication in Difficult Situations

1.0 standard CLE credit (applied for)

– *Carolien Moors*
HardTalk Biz Coaching

THURSDAY, JUNE 11, 2026 | 12:00 – 1:00 P.M. CT

Perfecting Without Perfectionism: How to Strive for Excellence Without Stressing Out Over Unattainable Ideals

1.0 mental health/substance use credit (applied for)

– *Sarah M. MacGillis*
Lawyers Concerned for Lawyers

SPECIAL THANKS TO OUR BRONZE INSTITUTE SPONSORS



COURSE INFORMATION

LIVE IN PERSON
Tuesday & Wednesday,
April 28 & 29, 2026
Minnesota CLE Conference Center
600 Nicollet Mall, Suite 370
Third Floor City Center, Minneapolis

ONLINE REPLAY
Thursday & Friday,
May 28 & 29, 2026
View online at www.minncle.org
The online replay will include all plenary and breakout sessions. A moderator will be available to answer questions by e-mail.

COURSE MATERIALS
In-person attendees will receive hard copies of course materials submitted by the print deadline. In-person and online replay attendees will have electronic access to all course materials via their Minnesota CLE website account.

CREDITS – INSTITUTE
Minnesota CLE is applying to the Minnesota State Board of CLE for **9.0 CLE credits, including 1.0 ethics credit for attendees of session #103.** The maximum number of total credits attendees may claim is 9.0 credits.

CREDITS – FREE POST-INSTITUTE WEBCASTS
Minnesota CLE is applying to the Minnesota State Board of CLE for **1.0 standard CLE credit for one webcast and 1.0 mental health/substance use credit for the other,** as indicated in this brochure.

SCHOLARSHIPS AVAILABLE
Minnesota CLE maintains a scholarship program for those with a financial need. For details or to obtain an application, contact customerservice@minncle.org.

ACCOMMODATION
If you have a disability and need an accommodation in order to attend this seminar, contact Minnesota CLE as soon as possible at customerservice@minncle.org or **800-759-8840**.

CANCELLATION / NO-SHOW POLICY
Paid registrants who cancel before the seminar will receive a refund. Paid registrants who do not cancel and are unable to attend will retain access to all seminar materials through their Minnesota CLE website account.

QUESTIONS?
customerservice@minncle.org
www.minncle.org
800-759-8840

Register online today at
www.minncle.org

The 2026

Workers' Compensation Institute

Attend In Person
Tuesday & Wednesday, April 28 & 29, 2026
Minnesota CLE Conference Center
600 Nicollet Mall, Suite 370, Minneapolis

Can't attend in person? View the online replay!
Thursday & Friday, May 28 & 29, 2026
www.minncle.org

REGISTER ONLINE AT WWW.MINNCLE.ORG
For assistance, call Minnesota CLE at **800-759-8840** or email customerservice@minncle.org.

TUITION:
\$445 MSBA member rate
\$445 paralegal rate
\$495 standard rate

SEASON PASSHOLDERS:

- **Super Passholders** may attend the in-person seminar or the online replay at no charge.
- **In-Person Passholders** may attend the in-person seminar at no charge or the online replay for 50% off.
- **Online Passholders** may attend the in-person seminar for 50% off or the online replay at no charge.

NEW LAWYER DISCOUNT!
New lawyers who have been admitted to the bar less than 5 years receive a 50% discount.

SCHOLARSHIPS AVAILABLE
Minnesota CLE maintains a scholarship program for those individuals with a financial need. To obtain a scholarship application, contact customerservice@minncle.org.

JOIN THE MSBA AND PAY LESS FOR MINNESOTA CLE SEMINARS!
To join, go to www.mnbar.org
Or for more membership advantages call 1-800-882-6722.