

SPEAKER BIOS FOR

JANUARY 2026 ANNUAL MEETING



Dr. Darryl Barnes is the chief technology officer and co-founder of Sonex Health and a co-inventor of UltraGuideCTR™, UltraGuideTFR™, and UltraGuideCo-Pilot™. He is also a founding partner at Chrysalis Incubator, a MedTech incubator located in Minneapolis, MN. Dr. Barnes has a long and fruitful history of medical device innovation, having been awarded numerous patents for technologies currently used nationwide. Some of Dr. Barnes' inventions, developed while he was on staff at the Mayo Clinic, were licensed to Tenex Health (Trice Medical), another company dedicated to providing ultrasound-guided minimally invasive treatment options. Dr. Barnes served as medical director and president of the Medical Staff at Mayo Clinic Health System Albert Lea-Austin, Minnesota where he practiced non-operative orthopedics and sports medicine. Dr. Barnes previously served as a member of the Medical Advisory Board and associate medical director of education at Tenex Health. In addition to his entrepreneurial achievements, Dr. Barnes is an active speaker, author, and patent holder in the fields of sports medicine and hand surgery. He earned his MD from the University of Utah School of Medicine, completed his residency at the Mayo Clinic, and pursued a fellowship in sports medicine at the Cleveland Clinic Lerner College of Medicine. He also holds business and technology certificates from Cornell University and The Wharton School.



Amy Rolando is an entrepreneur and innovator with a track record of launching and scaling national businesses that challenge the status quo. Drawing on her background in data-driven strategy and storytelling, she brings a unique blend of business insight and creative energy to the workers' compensation space. In 2022, Amy founded **MinWorx Health**, a company redefining surgical care for injured workers. MinWorx delivers the only **proprietary surgical bundle** in workers' compensation — combining minimally invasive procedures, concierge-level case coordination, and measurable guarantees in return-to-work outcomes. Bringing the *next "it" model* in workers' comp, MinWorx helps injured employees recover up to **80% faster** while reducing total claim costs for employers and payers. Amy is a sought-after speaker on innovation and disruption in workers' comp, recently highlighted in *Risk & Insurance Magazine* and featured with her other previous ventures in *The Wall Street Journal*, *Star Tribune*, and *The Denver Post*. Before entering healthcare, Amy worked as an on-camera meteorologist — earning college credit one summer chasing tornadoes. An avid traveler, skier, reader, and foodie, she now dabbles in golf when time allows but can still hit a solid drive down the fairway.



Mary Kossel is a seasoned risk and insurance professional, with over 40 years of experience and demonstrated skills in regulatory/compliance, strong analytical skills and proven track record. Her key responsibilities include the development and execution of Ahold Delhaize's workers' compensation claims program and strategies to improve claim outcomes. As a 2024 Theo Award winner, Mary was recently recognized at the National Workers' Compensation and Disability Conference and Risk & Insurance for her leadership and innovation in workers' compensation.



David Wei, MD, MS is a board-certified orthopedic surgeon and fellowship-trained specialist in hand and upper extremity surgery. He practices at Orthopaedic and Neurosurgery Specialists (ONS) in Greenwich, Connecticut, where he serves as Chief Clinical Informatics Officer and previously on the Clinical Governance Board. He is also Medical Director of Orthopedic Surgery at ModMed, where he helps shape AI-driven solutions that enhance surgical workflow and patient care. Dr. Wei's expertise includes microsurgical nerve reconstruction, arthroscopic treatment of wrist and elbow disorders, tendon repair and reconstruction, and endoscopic or ultrasound-guided carpal tunnel release. He provides comprehensive care for both adult and pediatric patients with hand, wrist, and elbow conditions. Nationally, he serves as Chair of the Business of Hand Surgery Committee for the American Society for Surgery of the Hand (ASSH) and is a frequent speaker on the use of AI and technology in orthopedic practice. He also hosts The Hand-P Podcast, which explores the business and future of hand surgery through conversations with leading surgeons and innovators. Dr. Wei's research has been published in leading journals including the Journal of Bone and Joint Surgery and Journal of Hand Surgery, with presentations at national and international meetings such as the AAOS, ASSH, and AOA. A graduate of Yale University (BS/MS in Molecular Biophysics and Biochemistry) and Columbia University Vagelos College of Physicians and Surgeons (MD), he completed orthopedic residency at NewYork-Presbyterian/Columbia and fellowship training at Tufts Medical Center and New England Baptist Hospital. Dr. Wei is passionate about the intersection of surgery, business, and AI innovation, advancing the way orthopedic care is delivered through data-driven technology and thoughtful leadership.



Dave Wehner is the Principal of DW Advisors LLC which he started in March 2022, a consulting firm which delivers strategic planning, business development and regulatory advisory services. Dave has over 25 years of federal and state government experience. Prior to starting his firm, Dave served as Managing Director of a leading government affairs and consulting firm in New York. He is a frequent national speaker on workers' compensation and regulatory issues. Dave served three different governors

while in state service, all in executive positions. He was the Chief Executive Officer of the NYS Insurance Fund, the Chair of the NYS Workers' Compensation Board and Executive Deputy Commissioner of the NYS Department of Labor. He also served as Media Director to United States Senator Alfonse M. D'Amato. Dave is the current President of Kids' Chance of New York. Kids' Chance is a charitable organization that provides scholarships to children of those who have been fatally or seriously injured in a work-related accident, resulting in financial need. Dave has been working with Kids' Chance of New York for seven years and has been an intricate part in increasing the fundraising revenue for the organization to increase the number of scholarships awarded.



Cliff Belliveau is the Chief Innovation Officer for myMatrixx. He is responsible for leading the initiatives that enable automation, advanced data analytics and visualizations for internal and external stakeholders. Cliff is an accomplished information technology leader with a track record of delivering solutions to complex business problems. He has over 25 years of experience in all facets of information technology – from managing high performance teams to systems architecture, application integration, software development, operations and support. He is also the inventor of two awarded patents. Previously, Cliff was the senior director of business intelligence at Syniverse Technologies where he led the development of the company's enterprise BI practice from the ground up. Prior to this position, he directed Enterprise Applications initiatives and the development of custom web applications and business support solutions in the areas of ERP, CRM, billing and business process automation. He is a member of the Tampa Bay Technology Forum and volunteers with their foundation, TechStart, to educate and encourage youth to pursue technology careers. Belliveau earned his Bachelor of Science in Computer Science and Mathematics from Valparaiso University. Cliff is a lifelong resident of Tampa and enjoys spending time with family, water sports, traveling and coaching youth athletics.



Dr. Nan-Wei Gong is a serial entrepreneur, technologist, and digital health innovator. She is currently the founder and CEO of FIGUR8, the industry-leading solution that transforms musculoskeletal (MSK) care with objective data and AI-driven biomarkers. Her professional experience began with co-founding the 3D gesture sensing company, 3dim Tech (acquired by Google), and working at Google ATAP as an R&D lead. She was one of the first cell phone module developers for Project ARA and led the R&D of Google's digital textile initiative, Project Jacquard, from concept to the production of Levi's Trucker Jacket with Jacquard by Google. She received her PhD from the MIT Media Lab. As an innovator driven by rigorous scientific and engineering training, she has published over 30 peer-reviewed papers, won two best paper awards at ACM CHI, and granted over 10 US patents to date.



Lt. Colonel John Cody, MD Originally from Montpelier, VT. Went to the US Military Academy at West Point and then to Georgetown University School of Medicine. After graduation from medical school, he completed Orthopaedic Surgery Residency at Walter Reed National Military Medical Center in Bethesda, MD. Completed his fellowship in Joint Replacement surgery, and have been a staff Orthopaedic surgeon at Walter Reed National Military Medical Center in Bethesda, MD for the past 10 years.



Bradley Cash, MD is a native New Yorker who attended College at Emory University, Atlanta Georgia. He went straight to Medical School at New York Medical College and graduated in 1995. He then attended Mount Sinai-NYC (which is a Model System program for both spinal cord and traumatic brain injury)-for residency and is Board Certified in Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation since 2000. He has been the Medical Director of SPINE OPTIONS REHABILITATION Medicine in in Westchester County for over 20 years. He is an expert in the diagnosis and treatment of Disorders of the Spine and conservative management with non-surgical techniques. He has been highly trained in the area of head, neck and back pain and treats patients in his full time private practice with various spinal and brain injuries. He has been using various non-surgical techniques for treatment of these disorders including the use of Botulinum Toxin injections, spinal injections, conducting electrodiagnostic studies and all types of Therapies. He maintains hospital privileges and affiliations at Mount Sinai Hospital, Lenox Hill Hospital-Northwell, New York Presbyterian Hospital and Westchester County Medical Center. His active academic teaching position is at Mount Sinai Hospital. Dr. Cash is a Board Certified Physician who maintains private practice in White Plains. He is a Founding Board Member of the New York State Pain Society. He is active in both clinical and academic aspects of Pain Management.



James A. Tacci, MD, JD, MPH (FACOEM, FACPM), is the Medical Director of the NYS Workers' Compensation Board. His focus is ensuring timely, appropriate and high-quality care for injured workers, to optimize their clinical and functional outcomes. Prior to joining the Board, Dr. Tacci was a medical director and residency program director at the University of Rochester, where he still holds part-time clinical (non-workers' compensation) and teaching appointments. Previously, he directed occupational medicine programs or served as a senior medical consultant in such industries as healthcare, technology, automotive, defense, medical devices and pharmaceuticals. He also worked extensively with municipalities, school districts, utilities, and local police and fire departments. Dr. Tacci earned his BS in Biology from Cornell University, MD (with distinction) from the University of Rochester, MPH from SUNY Albany, and JD (*magna cum laude*) from Syracuse University. He completed residencies in General Preventive Medicine & Public Health (NYS Department of Health and Occupational Medicine (Harvard)).



Dan Falge has been in practice for over 30 years before administrative and state courts, primarily in insurance law. His practice has focused exclusively on Workers' Compensation insurance defense for the last 25 years. Dan works with employers, both large and small, doing business in New York State, as well as municipalities, third-party administrators, and insurance carriers in all aspects of Workers' Compensation Law. He has a proven record of achieving prompt and fair resolutions for his clients, with integrity being the foundation of his work. Dan also specializes in the handling of complex claims and settlement negotiation of high exposure cases. Dan recently joined Cohen Vaughan as a partner and is a member of the Onondaga County Bar and New York State Bar Associations. He is also a Fellow of The College of Workers' Compensation Lawyers. Dan is an active participant in the insurance community and has been a regular presenter at various meetings of professional organizations, including the New York Self-Insurers Association. He is currently serving as a Board Member with the Syracuse Claims Association. Dan graduated from Syracuse University College of Law with his Juris Doctor in 1993, and obtained his Bachelor from Cornell University.



Freida D. Foster is the Chair of the NYS Workers' Compensation Board and a member of New York Governor Kathy Hochul's Executive Cabinet. A Board member since 2009 and Vice Chair from 2016 until July 2025, Ms. Foster has dedicated most of her career to public service and has decades of professional experience in education, government/civic service, and public relations. In her time at the Board, Ms. Foster has reviewed tens of thousands of workers' compensation appeals and helped the agency's efforts to modernize its systems and processes. She also contributed to the implementation of NYS Paid Family Leave and assisted the previous Chair with overall day-to-day oversight and management of the agency and the Full Board. Prior to joining the Workers' Compensation Board, Ms. Foster was a Public Relations Specialist at Burson-Marsteller, where she managed the firm's largest account, the Help America Vote Act (HAVA). In this role, she organized the city-wide education campaign for New York City's transition from manual to electronic voting machines. She also founded and helped organize many state level initiatives, including New York State's comprehensive celebration of the Martin Luther King Jr. holiday. Fiercely dedicated to helping others and giving back to the community, Ms. Foster has held membership on several boards, all with a focus on community and civic service as well as student leadership. She served as a CUNY trustee for 10 years (2006-2016), helping oversee campus management as Vice Chair for the Student Affairs Committee and Chair for the University's Standing Committee on Facilities. She also served as a Trustee for the NYC Employee Retirement System (2010-2012), Trustee for the Teachers' Retirement System (2011-2012), Member of the NYC Department of Education's Panel for Educational Policy (2010-2012), and Board Member for the CORO Leadership Council (2015-2016). In addition to leading the Workers' Compensation Board, Ms. Foster also currently serves as Chair of the Harlem Community Development Corporation Board of Directors and Chair of the CUNY School of Public Health Advisory Board. She is also a Member of the Community Advisory Board for Channel Thirteen/WLIW. A lifelong Harlem resident, Ms. Foster holds an MS in Corporate Communications from the University of Wisconsin and a BA in Communications from Hofstra University.



Steven M. Scotti has served as Executive Director of the New York State Workers' Compensation Board since September 2022. He was a practicing workers' compensation attorney for over 30 years, working exclusively in-house for New York self-insured employers, and dedicated to ensuring that injured co-workers promptly received all benefits to which they were legally entitled. Mr. Scotti began his legal career in the public sector at the U.S. Department of Labor, followed by over 15 years of service with the New York City Law Department, where he served as Chief of the Workers' Compensation Division for the last seven years. He joined Con Edison in 2002, where he managed the workers' compensation practice in its Law Department for over 16 years. Starting in 2013, Steven served for five years as Associate

General Counsel for Labor, Employment, and Benefits, overseeing all labor and employment matters for the company. In 2019, he joined the Workers' Compensation Division of the New York City Transit Authority, serving as Deputy Executive Assistant General Counsel until leaving to join the Board. In 2016, Mr. Scotti was inducted as a Fellow into The College of Workers' Compensation Lawyers, a nationwide organization recognizing outstanding attorneys who have distinguished themselves for 20 years or more in the workers' compensation field. Mr. Scotti is Co-Editor in Chief and contributing author of the 2011 NYS Bar Association's *Workers' Compensation Law and Practice in New York* and a frequent speaker on workers' compensation issues. He served on two Governor's workers' compensation task forces (Governor Spitzer's 2007 Rocket Docket Committee and Governor Paterson's 2010 Task Force on Group Self-Insurance), as well as an FBI task force on workers' compensation fraud. Mr. Scotti was a member of the Executive Committee of the Special Funds Conservation Committee, a former Chair and Special Counsel of the New York Self-Insurers Association (NYSIA) and a former President of the New York Claim Association (NYCA), receiving the distinguished Greg Saxum award from NYSIA and a lifetime achievement award from NYCA. In 2001, he received the New York State Workers' Compensation Board Chair's Award for Excellence. Mr. Scotti earned a BA in Political Science (*cum laude*) from Stony Brook University and a JD with honors from New York Law School. He is a member of Phi Beta Kappa Society, the nation's most prestigious academic honor society.



Ron Carter is a seasoned executive and entrepreneur with over thirty-five years of expertise in innovation, strategy, and tech design/strategy across diverse sectors including business, telecommunications, energy, finance, healthcare, and government. Throughout his career, he has excelled as a developer, national strategy consultant, and has held the role of CIO for multiple organizations across various industries. Currently, as the Founder and CEO of RxBridge, Ron is dedicated to advancing capabilities and driving innovation in the healthcare industry. Having spent a lifetime thinking and dreaming with customers and business leaders across the enterprise, his passion still surrounds the envisioning and building of innovative solutions to help advance the Workers' Compensation industry and ultimately – help the Injured Employee. At RxBridge, a Workers' Compensation Innovative PBM, Ron is enjoying doing things differently and challenging the status quo in order to deliver a real and substantive value for Employers and their Injured Employees. In addition to his professional endeavors, Ron is committed to giving back to the community. He serves on the boards of several non-profit organizations, including Buckeye Ranch, a statewide Ohio nonprofit dedicated to restoring hope and providing healing for children and families through behavioral health, education, and child welfare services, and Alvis, a human services agency with over fifty years of experience in helping individuals turn their lives around. Ron's passion extends to the risk community, where he is dedicated to delivering exceptional service to injured employees, ensuring they receive the care they deserve while also mitigating risk for employers.



Kelly Powers is a seasoned Workers' Compensation and claims management professional with over 25 years of progressive experience in general liability, disability, and Workers' Compensation. Recognized for a consistent track record of reducing claim costs, improving program efficiency, and driving employee satisfaction through strategic guidance, coaching, and relationship-building. Currently serving as a **Workers' Compensation Senior Analyst at Scotts Miracle-Gro**, overseeing a national program across 42 locations and 1,600 mobile sales staff. Previously led Workers' Compensation programs at **Amazon**, and managed large national accounts at **Sedgwick**, where responsibilities included contract renewals, program performance analysis, and client integration during major acquisitions. Throughout a dynamic career, has directed on-site operations for major employers like **Honda**, and held leadership roles in third-party administration with **SIMCO**, including Vice President of Operations. Adept at collaborating with cross-functional teams, vendors, and medical professionals to ensure effective claims resolution, compliance, and innovative return-to-work programs.



Kathy Talabec is a highly accomplished Workers' Compensation Manager and subject matter expert with three decades dedicated to optimizing claim life cycles and maximizing employee recovery. I combine deep technical expertise in claims investigation, medical utilization review, and liability assessment with powerful cost-containment strategies. My recent success includes leveraging proactive claim management techniques to deliver a 72% reduction in overall workers' compensation costs over the past twenty-four months. Focused on fostering a secure work environment and implementing streamlined, positive return-to-work experiences.



Erika Graham is the current Manager of Workers' Compensation Programs at The Port Authority of NY and NJ. Since obtaining her bachelor's degree from Saint John's University in May 1993, Erika has dedicated her career to the insurance industry in the Greater New York City area. Her training in the field of workers' compensation began in 1996 when Kemper Insurance brought her on board as a workers' compensation examiner. She has held positions with GEICO as a no-fault and liability examiner; then Zurich Insurance Company gave her the responsibility of handling high risk construction claims, including coverage verification responsibilities, lost time and complex cases involving catastrophic injuries. In 2010 she went to work for the third-party administrator Risk Management Planning Group as

a Senior Claims Examiner. In 2013 Erika accepted a position as the Risk Manager for a consortium of more than ten nursing homes in the New York area. In 2014 Erika was hired by The Port Authority of New York and New Jersey as the Supervisor of their Workers' Compensation Program, overseeing both the Self-insured and OCIP projects as well as carrier claims. In 2019, she was promoted to Manager of the Workers' Compensation Programs. Erika is a member of the Board of Managers for the New York Self-Insurer's Association, the New Jersey Self-Insurers' Association, and New York Claims Association. She is licensed and credentialed as a New York State Independent Casualty Adjuster, Senior Claims Law Associate and Construction Risk Insurance Specialist.



Eric Chase is a 1999 graduate of Springfield College (B.S., summa cum laude) and Boston College Law School (J.D., 2002). He has been admitted to the bars of New York since 2003 and Massachusetts since 2002. Eric is a long-standing member in good standing of the Onondaga County and New York State bar associations. Eric has been with Wolff, Goodrich & Goldman LLP since March 2003 and has been a partner since January 2014. He has been a practicing workers' compensation attorney with Wolff, Goodrich & Goldman LLP since March of 2003 where he has and continues to effectively represent employers, insurance carriers, and third-party administrators in Workers' Compensation claims throughout New York State. With more than two decades of experience, Eric assists clients in every aspect of the workers' compensation claim process from inception through resolution with focus on effectuating a comprehensive claims handling process and favorable resolutions. He is a frequent presenter at conferences and training seminars on a myriad of topics that assist in the navigation of the complexities of New York State workers' compensation system. When outside of work, Eric has devoted time to his family and various non-profits that include Western Area Volunteer Emergency Service as Board member in an on-going effort to assist in the betterment of the local and regional communities.



J. Evan Perigoe has specialized in appeals of Board decisions at the Third Department and Court of Appeals for over a decade. Since graduating Columbia Law School in 2011, he has thwarted attempts to render the WCL more favorable to claimants in cases including in Mina, (2024), Timperio, (2024), Reyes (2023), Kretunski, (2022), Johnson (2020) and Portlette (2018), and become one of the few employer-side attorneys whose experience rivals the most prolific claimant litigators in those courts. In the COVID-19 mental injury cases, he acted of counsel for Weiss Wexler & Wornow, PC. He can be reached at john.evan@perigoe.com.



Ralph E. Magnetti, Esq. graduated from the State University of New York at Oneonta in 1979 and Pace Law School in 1987, after which he became affiliated with the firm of Kelly & Carroll in 1987. Subsequent to its merger with the firm of Cherry, Edson, Corn, Vann, Guttentag and Siminerio in December 1989, he became an associate of the Cherry, Edson & Kelly law firm, became a partner in July 1993, and a senior partner in 2010. He is a member of the New York State Bar Association and participates in programs of the New York State Workers' Compensation Bar Association. Mr. Magnetti has been engaged in every aspect of workers' compensation defense work, including complex trials, appeals to the Board, Appellate Division, Third Department and Court of Appeals for over thirty-eight years.



Paul Zaragoza is the Chief of the New York City Law Department's Workers' Compensation Division, where he has previously served as Assistant Corporation Counsel, Senior Counsel, and Deputy Chief. As Chief, Paul oversees the operation of a division that handles all aspects of claim management for the City of New York, a self-insured and self-administered employer of over 250,000 covered employees. This includes an annual volume of approximately 16,000 claims, 16,000 administrative hearings, and 500,000 medical bills with a total expenditure exceeding \$600 million. His efforts have been previously recognized with the Law Department's "Legal Rookie of the Year" award, as an NYC Bar Association Municipal Affairs Award nominee, and as recipient of the Edith Spivack Special Recognition Award for Exceptional Performance. Paul currently sits on the Workers' Compensation Board Advisory Committee for Self-Insurance, the Board of Managers for the New York Self-Insurers Association, and is a Director for the New York Claims Association. He has spoken on various topics for the NYSIA and has represented them prior to the promulgation of the 2018 Impairment Guidelines. Paul received his undergraduate degree from American University and his Juris Doctorate from the Maurice A. Deane School of Law at Hofstra University, where he served as the Managing Editor of the Journal of International Business and Law. He and his wife, Laura, are proud parents to two wonderful children: Nuala and Ronan.