

NYSIA JUNE 2024
SPRING WORKSHOP SPEAKERS



Ernest Chisena, MD is a fellowship-trained trauma surgeon who specializes in total hip reconstruction and revision as well as trauma and general orthopaedic care. Dedicated to providing patients with exceptional care, he works with each of his patients, discussing their injuries and conditions as well as the available treatment options, and together they form individualized treatment plans that meet their needs and goals.

In Winston-Salem, North Carolina, Dr. Chisena attended Wake Forest University for his Bachelor of Arts degree, where he was also distinguished with the Speas Award for being a top student. Afterward, he moved to New York to attend medical school in Brooklyn at SUNY Downstate Medical Center College of Medicine. He completed his residency training in orthopaedic surgery at Albany Medical Center in Albany. After his residency, he elected to undergo additional training through an orthopaedic trauma fellowship at the University of Louisville and Norton Children's Hospital in Louisville, Kentucky.



John Land is a Partner in the Buffalo office of Hamberger & Weiss LLP. John devotes his practice to Workers' Compensation Law. He defends insurance carriers and employers in a wide range of compensation claims, handling every aspect of a claim from start to finish, ensuring a comprehensive strategy for mitigating liability. He also assists carriers with recovering first party benefits through loss transfer. John has appeared to defend the interests of workers' compensation insurers and employers before the Workers' Compensation Board, in State Supreme Court proceedings, and before the Appellate Division, as both Appellant and Respondent. He has also defended employers against illegal employment claims. John is a member of the New York State Bar and Erie County Bar Associations.



Gregory Lois is the Managing Partner of Lois Law Firm LLC where he leads more than 50 attorneys who represent employers, self-insured companies, third party administrators, and insurance carriers in workers' compensation matters. Follow LOIS on LinkedIn (<https://www.linkedin.com/company/lois-law-firm/>) or Twitter (<https://www.linkedin.com/company/lois-law-firm/>) for more information about upcoming CLE-accredited courses programs on workers' compensation topics in New York and New Jersey.



Jesse Simon studied his undergraduate work at Gettysburg College from 1991-1994 in Health and Exercise Sciences and was captain of his baseball team. He left college to study abroad in Scotland at the Robert Gordon University where he earned his honors degree in Physiotherapy in 1997. Jesse has been working with JAG Physical Therapy since its inception in 2000 and was the Director of Rehabilitation of the Brooklyn Heights. He is now a Senior Regional Clinical Director for New York. Jesse has a Mastery Certification in Manual Therapy (MCMT), is certified in the Titleist Performance Instrument (TPI) for golf injuries, fitness and swing mechanics and excels in kinesiotaping, sports rehabilitation and general orthopedic rehabilitation.



Clarissa M. Rodriguez, Esq. is the Chair and Commissioner of the New York State Workers' Compensation Board, which administers workers' compensation, disability benefits, and Paid Family Leave insurance. During her time at the Board, Mrs. Rodriguez has led the agency through several important legislative reforms and implementations, including the launch of New York's landmark Paid Family Leave law, while also working to make significant improvements to the workers' compensation system. In 2023 NYS Governor Kathy Hochul reappointed Mrs. Rodriguez as Chair through 2029.

Before joining the Board in 2016, Mrs. Rodriguez worked as a litigator with the Legal Aid Society of NY and the Civil and Matrimonial Parts of the Nassau County Supreme Court. She also served with the Civil Rights Bureau of the NYS Office of the Attorney General, the City University of New York's (CUNY) Office of General Counsel, the Municipal Employees Legal Services (MELS) at District Council 37, and the Urban Justice Center, prior to joining the Bar in 2007.

Mrs. Rodriguez has been a member of the Women's Bar Association of Orange & Sullivan County, the Dominican Bar Association of NY, the Hudson Valley Hispanic Bar Association, and the Hispanic National Bar Association, Region II. She is a Council on Legal Education Opportunity (CLEO) Fellow and is a graduate of CUNY School of Law. She holds a BA in Political Science and Women's Studies from the State University of New York, Purchase College and lives in Orange County, NY with her husband and daughters.



Anthony Tomaselli is the Workers' Compensation Board's Advocate for Business. Anthony leads the office that serves as the liaison between New York's business community and the Board, providing helpful assistance to employers on issues related to workers' compensation, disability benefits, and Paid Family Leave. Mr. Tomaselli joined the Board after more than 8 years at the NYS Office of General Services, where he helped build the successful NYS Service-Disabled Veteran-Owned Business (SDVOB) program. He also served at the Empire State Development Corporation, the New York State Division of Homeland Security and Emergency Services, as a social studies teacher in the Brentwood, Seafood, and New Lebanon school districts, and as a paratrooper in the U.S. Army's 82nd Airborne Division.



Tracey McLean has nearly three decades of experience defending employers, insurance carriers, and third-party administrators in workers' compensation claims across New York State. During that time, she has authored numerous articles for industry publications, spoken at conferences on a variety of employer-related topics, and provided training seminars to assist employers and claims professional in navigating the complexities of the workers compensation system in New York. She has been named a Super Lawyer for multiple years in the area of workers compensation for Upstate New York. In addition to her practice, Tracey finds great satisfaction in serving her community through her involvement with several legal agencies and organizations, including her work as a Law Guardian in the Fourth Department representing and protecting the interests of children in legal proceedings; as a Pro Bono panelist of the Onondaga County Bar Association providing legal advice and assistance to victims of domestic violence; and as a board member of multiple non-profits in Central New York. Her work as an animal welfare advocate includes fostering, rescuing, and transporting neglected or abandoned animals across the northeast and Canada, and fundraising for their care. Most recently, she started a scholarship fund benefitting the girls of a remote village in Papua New Guinea, created in appreciation for the



Danielle Hill Lamoureaux is a **Senior** Client Services Manager for Gallagher Bassett. She has over 20 years of experience in the insurance industry. Danielle started her career at Travelers Insurance where she spent ten years before moving to Gallagher Bassett 8 years ago as a Resolution Manager. Danielle has extensive knowledge of the entire claim process and handling complex litigated claims in the NY, NJ and PA jurisdictions. Danielle was recognized in 2017 and 2019 as Gallagher Bassett's Resolution Manager of the Year. Now as a Client Services Manager, she is responsible for developing and maintaining strong relationships, and prides herself on providing successful oversight of her programs utilizing her claims background.



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.



Gina Marie Cano is a senior partner at Vecchione, Vecchione, Connors and Cano, LLP. Ms. Cano attended St. John's University where she graduated cum laude with a Bachelor's Degree in Criminal Justice. She later went on to earn her Juris Doctorate degree from Maurice A. Deane School of Law at Hofstra University.

During her law school career, Gina began interning at what was then Vecchione, Vecchione & Connors, LLP. She learned about the intricacies of the Workers' Compensation Law in New York from the ground up. Upon being admitted to the bar in 2005, she was offered an associate position at the firm. Over the course of several years, she played a vital role in the firms' growth and development. Her hard work and dedication helped the firm become one of the leading insurance defense firms in New York State. In 2016, the firm announced that Gina would become a named partner to what is now Vecchione, Vecchione, Connors, & Cano, LLP. Ms. Cano has been successful in having a noteworthy amount of Workers' Compensation claims disallowed, as well as findings of fraud under WCL Section 114-a. She is known by her colleagues as not only being a strong advocate for her clients, but also a reasonable mind with an ample understanding of the law. As a senior partner, Ms. Cano oversees client relationships. She was nominated by one of her clients to be the Keynote Speaker at the New York State Self Insured Conference in 2017. Gina delivers presentations and seminars to carriers, employers and third-party administrations. In doing so, she makes certain that all clients are educated, well versed, and updated in all aspects of the Workers Compensation Law.

Area of Practice:

- Workers' Compensation

Education: Maurice A. Deane School of Law at Hofstra University, 2003

- Saint John's University, B.A., 2000

Bar Admission:

- New York, 2005



Kenesha Giocastro, MPA serves as the Assistant Director of the Leave Management Office at Columbia University. In this pivotal role, she strategically positions herself at the heart of the University's central administrative leave and disability operations, focusing on the case management for various leaves of absence including FMLA, Workers Compensation, Short Term Disability leaves, and Workplace Accommodations. Kenesha has provided management and oversight, notable was her leadership managing as part of a team, the response to COVID-related leave and vaccine exemptions, ensuring compliance with Local, State and Federal guidelines. Acknowledging the value that technology plays within case management, one of her primary roles was the implementation of a state-of-the-art leave of absence tracking system to manage all disability claims across the University, including the Medical Center. This initiative aims to streamline processes, enhancing efficiency while focusing on timely employee return to work and cost reduction. She is widely recognized for her reliability, professionalism, and unwavering commitment to excellence. Prior to joining Columbia University, Kenesha held the position of Specialty Claims Manager at an Independent Medical Evaluation company, managing the daily operations of the Workers Compensation team. With a career spanning 15 years, Kenesha entered the industry with a focus on Vocational Rehabilitation of injured workers. Her primary goal has always been to assist individuals in reentering the workforce, aligning perfectly with the broader mission of improving workplace well-being and productivity.



Meredith Storch is Director, Account Management and Implementation for PMA Management Corp. She joined PMA Management Corp. in 2022.

As Director, Meredith leads PMA Management Corp.'s team of experienced Account Managers and provides strategic leadership in new program implementation to ensure timely and complete new account installation. Meredith is responsible for oversight of large national accounts requiring a high degree of customization, driving strong retention and advanced, comprehensive program management.

Over her insurance and risk management career, Meredith served in positions of increasing responsibility with oversight in claims, quality assurance, performance management, implementation, training, and risk management. She has been recognized for her superior performance, exceptional customer service, and advanced critical thinking.

Meredith began her professional career in teaching, but thereafter found her passion for insurance claims and risk management and has been in the industry for over a decade. Her industry background includes Carrier, Third Party Administration and Brokerage expertise, which provides her with a well-rounded, comprehensive insight into

our field. Meredith has been an influential contributor for many national employers reviewing program strategy, data analysis, and overall risk reduction.

TRAINING & EDUCATION

Meredith earned a Bachelor of Science in Education from Shippensburg University. She holds her Property and Casualty Producer License from the State of New Jersey Department of Banking and Insurance.



Adam Fraser has over 18 years of investigative expertise solidifying his reputation as a staunch beacon of excellence, professionalism, and passion in Surveillance & SIU Services. His journey started in 2006 as a Field Investigator based in New York where he swiftly separated himself from his peers and demonstrated his unparalleled performance in claims investigation by providing impactful evidence for incidences of insurance fraud. Driven by the relentless pursuit of perfection, Adam transitioned seamlessly to a full-time SIU Investigator where his adept navigation of complex investigative

tasks earned him widespread recognition as an industry maverick.

In 2014, Adam earned the opportunity to be promoted to Case Manager at the largest company in the industry at the time where he honed his craft and expand his mastery to all aspects of claims investigations. In this role, Adam was tasked with overseeing all of the case work in New York and quickly mastered the complexities that come with managing NYC case work. This experience would allow him to transition to the role of Account Manager for a regional company based in NH. In that role he was tasked with maintaining and growing existing accounts, field and secure new accounts while problem solving, ensuring client retention and exposing the company to new prospects.

In 2021, Adam embarked on a pivotal career move by joining AIC Companies LLC as Vice President of Operations. Here, he harnessed his wealth of experience and commitment to innovative, customer-focused investigative solutions, propelling AIC Companies to the forefront of fraud investigations. During his tenure at AIC Companies, he has helped grow the company while holding and maintaining licensure for AIC in several key states.

As Adam continues to spearhead transformative initiatives, take on industrial changes at the forefront, and impart his wisdom upon both newcomers and industry veterans alike, his impact on the industry is poised to be profound.



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 18,000 claims, 18,000 administrative hearings, and 300,000 medical bills with a total expenditure exceeding \$650 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.



Annette Malpica serves as Vice President, Director of Claims & Legal Counsel at Lovell Safety Management Company, LLC. Annette has over 28 years of workers' compensation claims experience and brings unique insight to the claims process as an attorney and registered nurse. She has extensive legal and administrative experience managing large self-insured workers' compensation programs at Con Edison Company of NY & The NYC Law Department-Workers' Compensation Division. In 2017, she was appointed by the Chair of the Workers' Compensation Board to serve a three-year term to the Workers' Compensation Advisory Committee to the Board. She also served as a statutory appointee for individual self-insured employers to the New York State Advisory for Self-Insurance. Annette served as Chair of NY Self Insurers Association, President/Executive Director of the NY Claim Association. Ms. Malpica is a current Board member of AMCOMP and Special Counsel for the New York Self-Insurers Association. In 2022, Annette received the NY Claim Association's Lifetime Achievement Award. Annette is a medical reservist with the NYC Department of Health.