

NYSIA SPRING WORKSHOP SPEAKERS

JUNE 10-12, 2026

SAGAMORE RESORT



Dr. Robert Knapp CV

EDUCATION

Vassar College, 1977, Cum Laude , BA Biology

University of Pittsburgh School of Medicine 1982. Alpha Omega Alpha. M.D.

Internal Medicine Internship Presbyterian University, Hospital University of Pittsburgh 1982-83

Residency Neurology Strong Memorial Hospital, University of Rochester 1983-86

POSITIONS HELD

Neurology Consultant Canandaigua, New York 1986-2020

Medical Director Ontario County ARC 1990-2017

Director, Sleep Disorder Center of the Finger Lakes 1991-98

Clinical Instructor, Department of Neurology University of Rochester 1992-2017

Director Thompson Health Systems Stroke Center 2006-2010

Reviewer Maximus Federal Services 2014-2018

Neurology Consultant Clinica Esperanza Honduras 2007-present

BOARD CERTIFICATION

American Board of Psychiatry and Neurology 1989

MEMBERSHIPS

American Academy of Neurology 1983-2015

American Medical Association 2016-2019

PUBLICATIONS

Kurlan, Knapp et. Al. Double Blinded Assessment of Potential Pergolide Induced Cardiotoxicity. Neurology. 1986. 36:993-95



Idina M. Gorman is an experienced labor and employee relations executive with over 20 years of expertise in collective bargaining, workplace investigations, and employment law. She serves as Executive Director of Labor and Employee Relations at Columbia University, where she advises senior leadership on complex workplace matters and leads collective bargaining negotiations. Prior to Columbia, Idina held leadership roles within New York

City's public healthcare system and served as Assistant General Counsel for District Council 37, AFSCME, representing clients in labor and employment matters. She began her legal career in private practice, focusing on labor and employment law. Idina holds a J.D. from Fordham University School of Law and a B.A. in Sociology from New York University and is admitted to practice in New York and federal district courts.



Roni Fonteneau is a Senior Director for Marriott, providing strategic oversight of Workers' Compensation, Auto Liability, and General Liability claims across the Eastern Region, spanning from Maine to Florida. Roni holds an MBA with a concentration in Project Management and a BA in Psychology. Roni has served on the NYSIA Board of Managers since December of 2025.



For the past 26 years **Hana Bloch** has managed the Leave Management Office at Columbia University. Currently she serves as the Director of the Office, along with a team of four others. Beginning from the ground up as a one person show, she has built this program to serve the needs of the University community, creating an office that manages all leaves inclusive of Workers' Compensation, FMLA, PFL, Short Term Disability, Long Term Disability and Workplace Accommodations. This unique arrangement blends services typically serviced by offices such as risk management, benefits, employee relations and labor relations into one. Prior to assuming this role, she earned her master's degree in social work from Columbia University, specializing in workplace matters. While in school she researched mental health in the workplace and worked for a pilot program with DC-37 (Municipal Services Union in NYC) addressing mental health in the workplace. She also served as a Director of Welfare to Work Program in NYC.



Freida D. Foster was appointed the Chair of the NYS Workers' Compensation Board by Governor Kathy Hochul in August 2025 after serving as Vice Chair for eight years and as a Board Member for 16 years. In her new role, Ms. Foster is now a member of the Governor's Executive Cabinet, part of the Governor's Interagency Statewide Workforce Group, and chairs the NYS Self-Insureds Association Advisory Committee. Throughout her time on the NYS Workers' Compensation 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 had an important role in implementing NYS Paid Family Leave, while assisting the Chair with overall day-to-day oversight and management of

the agency and the Full Board. With a background spanning from public service to public relations and education, Ms. Foster brings a unique perspective to building systems that protect workers, while also strengthening communities. Prior to joining the Workers' Compensation Board, Ms. Foster was a Public Relations Manager at Burson-Marsteller, where she was the manager for the firm's largest account, Help America Vote Act (HAVA), while also organizing the city-wide education campaign for NYC's voting system transition from manual to electronic machines. With a deep commitment to community service and public good, Ms. Foster has held membership on several boards, all with a focus on community and/or civic service as well as student leadership. She currently serves as Chair of the Harlem Community Development Corporation Board of Directors and for the CUNY School of Public Health Advisory Board. Additionally, she sits on the Community Advisory Board for Channel Thirteen/WLIW. She previously served as a Trustee for the City University of New York (2006-16), helping oversee campus management. Known for a collaborative approach and a passion for service, Ms. Foster has dedicated her career to improving how people, policy, and purpose intersect in the world of work. 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.



John Land is a Partner at Hamberger & Weiss LLP who devotes his practice to the 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 lives in Boston, NY with his wife Anna, his daughter Tara, and his one-eyed, striped, spotted, tri-color Asgardian terrier, Odin. John clerked for the firm before joining as an associate. He is a member of the New York State Bar and Erie County Bar Associations.



Brendan Shannon is an attorney with The Law Offices of Melissa A. Day (LOMAD), where he focuses exclusively on workers' compensation defense. Brendan was born and raised in Buffalo, NY. He is a graduate of Canisius College and the University at Buffalo School of Law. Brendan represents numerous self-insured employers, carriers, and third-party administrators, consistent with LOMAD's collaborative, goal-oriented approach to workers' compensation defense. Brendan is excited to speak with members of the New York Self-Insurers Association (NYSIA) on mitigating the impact of questionable decisions and strategies.



Julie Tennant is a Benefits Manager for Eastman Kodak overseeing its U.S. workers' compensation, leave management, occupational health and drug and alcohol compliance programs. Julie has also served on the NYSIA Board of Managers since January of 2022.



Michele Donovan is the Workers' Compensation Specialist for Cooper Companies' U.S. operations, focusing on creating a supportive, prevention-driven environment where employees feel informed and protected. A collaborative approach bridges claims, EHS, HR, and Operations to reduce risk, enhance communication, and build a stronger culture of workplace safety.



Timothy J. Kemperle is a Director Risk Management for UPS. Timothy joined UPS in 1984 as a Preloader and has held various positions within the organization over the past 40 years to include Operations, Human Resources, Health & Safety and Risk Management. He currently oversees Workers' Compensation and Auto Liability claims for East Zone. He is currently sits on the Board of the New York Self-Insures Association as well as a Director for New York Claims Association. He is a graduate of St. John's University with a BS in Management and a Master's Degree of Science in HR & Labor Relations from New York Institute of Technology.



Danielle Hill Lamoureux 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 11 years ago as a Resolution Manager. Danielle has extensive knowledge of the entire claim process and handling complex litigated WC 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 Senior Client Services Manager, she is responsible for developing and maintaining strong relationships, and prides herself on providing successful and proactive oversight of her programs utilizing her claims background.



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 professionals 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 village's assistance with recovery of her grandfather, a pilot whose plane crashed near the village during a mission in WWII.



Adam Fraser has over 20 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 expanded 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.



David Alofs is the Assistant Vice President of Workers Compensation for Lodestar Claims & Risk Services. David operates out of the Glastonbury, Connecticut office where he is responsible for 20 teams in the Empire/Northeast regions. In this capacity, David manages an inclusive workers' compensation environment, fostering job enrichment, engagement and client satisfaction. Certifications Workers' Compensation licensed in CT, MA, NH, VT and ME Experience David brings 37 years of diversified experience in the management of workers' compensation and group disability programs. He has led Fortune 500 companies claims departments, driving optimal results corporation initiatives, key metrics, service expectations and statutory requirements.



Kyle Reichel has been with Lodestar Claims & Risk Services for 8 years and previously worked in a leadership capacity for 12 years for the NY Special Funds. Kyle currently is responsible for 5 NY teams and has held positions with progressive responsibility demonstrated meticulous attention to detail and commitment to delivering exemplary service. He has excelled with a diversified portfolio of accounts in multiple jurisdictions and supports job enrichment and employee engagement.



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 topic 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.