

The **30th** Annual
North Carolina
Workers' Compensation Educational Conference



Wednesday - Friday, October 15 - 17, 2025
Raleigh Marriott Crabtree Valley Hotel

SCHEDULE OF SESSIONS

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 15, 2025

- 12:45 **Opening Remarks**
Philip Baddour, Chair, NCIC
Kids' Chance of North Carolina, Inc.
Greg Shue, President, Kids' Chance of North Carolina, Inc., Mount Holly, NC
- 1:00 **Extended Compensation Cases under G.S. 97-29(c)**
Dawn Dillon, Young Moore and Henderson, P.A., Raleigh, NC; Valerie Johnson, Johnson & Groninger, PLLC, Durham, NC
- 2:00 **Threats to Healthcare Access in Rural America**
Mark Holmes, PhD, Professor, University of North Carolina Gillings School of Global Public Health and Director, Cecil G. Sheps Center for Health Services Research, Chapel Hill, NC; Brian Freedman, Freedman Law Firm, Greensboro, NC; Rick Harper, The Harper Law Firm, PLLC, Sylva, NC
- 3:00 **Break - Visit Exhibit Hall**
- 3:15 **An Interdisciplinary Rehabilitative Approach to Helping Patients with Chronic Pain Reach Their Maximum Potential**
Shilpa Kasuganti, M.D., The Rehab Center, Charlotte, NC; Sarah Blair, Anders Crone, PLLC, Raleigh, NC; Leann Gerlach, Ricci Law Firm, P.A., Raleigh, NC
- 4:15 **You Be the Judge!: An Interactive Presentation Based on Real Life Fact Patterns**
Larry Baker, Willson Jones Carter & Baxley, Charlotte, NC; Hunter Eddins-Gentel, Ricci Law Firm, P.A., Greenville, NC; Dawn Steadman, Vice President of Claims, SCA, Colfax, NC
- 5:15 **Adjourn / Reception Begins**
Kids' Chance Silent Auction
- 6:15 **Reception Ends**

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 16, 2025

- 8:00 **Continental Breakfast**
- Concurrent Break-Out Sessions:**
- 9:00 **Break-Out Sessions - Choose one (1) session of two (2) listed below**
- I. Show Cause Motions and Contempt Proceedings in Workers' Compensation Cases**
Ashley Moore, Deputy Commissioner and Director of Claims Administration, NCIC; Wes Saunders, Deputy Commissioner, NCIC; Lauren Halbert White, Director of Compliance, NCIC
- II. Update from the Full Commission**
J.D. Prather, Full Commission Chief Administrative Officer and Lead Counsel, NCIC; Melissa Botiglione, Full Commission Assistant Administrative Officer and Counsel, NCIC
- 10:00 **Break - Visit Exhibit Hall**
- 10:20 **Break-Out Sessions - Choose one (1) session of two (2) listed below**
- I. Tools for Helping Someone in Crisis**
(Fulfills one (1) hour Ethics credit for attorneys)
Wendy Gantt, MA, LCMHC, Alliance Health, Community Health and Well-Being, Raleigh, NC
- II. Update from the Executive Secretary's Office**
Meredith Henderson, Executive Secretary, NCIC; Kimberly Fennell, Special Deputy Commissioner, NCIC; Carrie Geddie, Special Deputy Commissioner, NCIC; Alexandra Hagerty, Special Deputy Commissioner, NCIC; Michael Kelly, Special Deputy Commissioner, NCIC; Jeff McMillion, Special Deputy Commissioner, NCIC; Jessica Parker, Special Deputy Commissioner

- 11:20 **Break-Out Sessions - Choose one (1) session of two (2) listed below**
- I. Technology Update and Tips for Using the Commission's New Integrated Case Management System (ICMS)**
(Fulfills one (1) hour Technology credit for attorneys)
Tim Frost, Chief Information Officer, NCIC; Meredith Henderson, Executive Secretary, NCIC; Emily Baucom, Clerk of the Industrial Commission, NCIC
- II. We're All Professionals Here: The Rehabilitation Rules and the Importance of Professional Responsibility when Providing Rehabilitation Services**
(Fulfills Ethics requirement for CCM, CRC, and CDMS)
Vicki Hewitt, Rehabilitation Nurse Consultant, NCIC; Jodie Nolf, RN, CRRN, CCM, CLCP, Nolf Case Management & Consulting, LLC, Raleigh, NC
- 12:20 **Lunch (included)**
- 1:45 **Break-Out Sessions - Choose one (1) session of two (2) listed below**
- I. Attorney Mental Health & Self-Awareness**
(Fulfills one (1) hour Professional Well-Being credit for attorneys)
Charity Wijetunga, JD, PhD, Assistant Professor, UNC School of Medicine, Chapel Hill, NC
- II. Updates from Claims Administration and the Clerk's Office**
Ashley Moore, Deputy Commissioner and Director of Claims Administration, NCIC; Emily Baucom, Clerk of the Industrial Commission, NCIC
- 2:45 **Break - Visit Exhibit Hall**
- 3:00 **Break-Out Sessions - Choose one (1) session of two (2) listed below**
- I. Best Practices for Avoiding Ethical Pitfalls: An Interactive Discussion**
(Fulfills one (1) hour Ethics credit for attorneys and adjusters)
Julia Dixon, New Day Resolution Services, Raleigh, NC; Jarvis T. Harris, The Law Offices of James Scott Farrin, Greensboro, NC; Allison Rogers, Stake Center Locating, Risk Management, Greensboro, NC
- II. Mediation: Mayhem or Masterpiece? A Two-Act Play**
(Fulfills one (1) hour CME credit for mediators)
Jolinda Babcock, Tarheel Mediations, Summerfield, NC; Amy Berry, Amy Berry Law, P.A., Burlington, NC; Tim Hewlett, Hewlett Mediations, Pfafftown, NC
- 4:00 **Adjourn**

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 17, 2025

- 8:00 **Continental Breakfast**
- 9:00 **A View from the Bench**
Kevin Howell, Chief Deputy Commissioner, NCIC; Matthew Buckner, Deputy Commissioner, NCIC; Carolyn Thompson, Deputy Commissioner, NCIC; Patrick Wooten, Deputy Commissioner, NCIC
- 10:00 **Break - Visit Exhibit Hall**
- 10:30 **Back To The Basics: Arising Out Of and In The Course Of**
Daniel Pope, Jr., Wilson Ratledge, PLLC, Raleigh, NC; Martha Ramsay, Ramsay Law Firm, P.A., Charlotte, NC
- 11:30 **Workers' Compensation Appellate Case Law Update**
Heather T. Baker, Skidmore Law Group, PLLC, Raleigh, NC; Elizabeth Ligon, The Law Offices of James Scott Farrin, Durham, NC
- 12:30 **Adjourn**