

The **31st** Annual
North Carolina
Workers' Compensation Educational Conference



Wednesday - Friday, October 14 - 16, 2026
Raleigh Marriott Crabtree Valley Hotel

SCHEDULE OF SESSIONS

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 14, 2026

- 12:40 **Opening Remarks**
Tyler Younts, Chairman, NCIC
Kids' Chance of North Carolina, Inc.
Greg Shue, President, Kids' Chance of North Carolina, Inc.
- 12:55 **Back to the Basics: Occupational Diseases**
Daniel Pope, Jr., Wilson Ratledge, Raleigh, NC; Martha Ramsay, Ramsay Law Firm, Charlotte, NC
- 1:55 **Workplace Head Injuries: Medical and Legal Issues**
Peter Jeffrey Ewert, Ph.D., ABPP, Carolina Neuroservices - The Head Injury Center, Charlotte, NC;
Todd King, Wilder Pantazis, Charlotte, NC; Emily C. Pappas, Ford Richardson, Raleigh, NC
- 2:55 **Break - Visit Exhibit Hall**
- 3:15 **Workers' Compensation Appellate Law Update**
Heather T. Baker, Skidmore Law Group, PLLC, Raleigh, NC;
E. Stewart Poisson, Poisson Poisson & Bower, Wilmington, NC
- 4:15 **You Be the Judge!**
Larry Baker, Willson Jones Carter & Baxley, Charlotte, NC;
Stephanie Gay, Aegis Administrative Services, Raleigh, NC;
Annemarie Pantazis, Wilder Pantazis, Charlotte, NC
- 5:15 **Adjourn / Reception Begins**
Kids' Chance Silent Auction
- 6:15 **Reception Ends**

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 15, 2026

- 8:00 **Continental Breakfast**
- 9:00 **Break-Out Sessions - Choose one (1) session of two (2) listed below**
- I. Ethical Issues in Workers' Compensation Cases for Adjusters and Attorneys**
(Fulfills one (1) hour attorney Ethics/Professional Responsibility credit and Adjuster Ethics credit)
Julia Dixon, Director of Licensing & Compliance, North Carolina State Lottery Commission, Raleigh, NC;
Scarlette Gardner, Claims Manager, Advance Auto Parts, Raleigh, NC;
Jarvis T. Harris, Law Offices of James Scott Farrin, Greensboro, NC
- II. A View from the Bench: Deputy Commissioner Panel**
Tiffany Mack Smith, Deputy Commissioner, NCIC; Erin Taylor, Deputy Commissioner, NCIC; John Tomei, Deputy Commissioner, NCIC
- 10:00 **Break - Visit Exhibit Hall**
- 10:20 **Break-Out Sessions - Choose one (1) session of two (2) listed below**
- I. Using AI Effectively in Workers' Compensation Legal Practice**
(Fulfills one (1) hour attorney Technology credit)
Douglas E. Berger, Law Offices of James Scott Farrin, Durham, NC;
Savannah Kent, McAngus, Goudelock & Courie, Charlotte, NC
- II. Industrial Commission Claims Update and Claims Form Filing Tips**
Ashley Moore, Chief Deputy Commissioner and Director of Claims Administration, NCIC; Demetrius Edwards, Assistant Director of Claims Administration, NCIC
- 11:20 **Break-Out Sessions - Choose one (1) session of two (2) listed below**
- I. New Medicare Set Aside Requirements in Workers' Compensation Cases**
Shannon Herndon, Hedrick Gardner, Charlotte, NC;
Alexandra Kensinger, Ricci Law Firm, Raleigh, NC

II. Full Commission Update

J.D. Prather, Full Commission Chief Administrative Officer and Lead Counsel, NCIC;
Melissa Botiglione, Full Commission Assistant Administrative Officer and Counsel, NCIC

12:20 Lunch & Dessert with Vendors (included)

1:45 Break-Out Sessions - Choose one (1) session of two (2) listed below

I. Executive Secretary's Office Update and Practical Tips

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, NCIC

II. To Live, Not Exist: What Our Experiences Can Teach Us About Managing Stress and Anxiety

(Fulfills one (1) hour attorney Professional Well-Being credit)
Coleman Cowan, Law Offices of James Scott Farrin, Durham, NC

3:00 Break-Out Sessions - Choose one (1) session of two (2) listed below

I. Autism in the Legal Workplace

(Fulfills one (1) hour attorney Ethics / Professional Responsibility credit)
S. Michael Chapman, UNC School of Medicine, TEACCH Autism Program, Chapel Hill, NC;
David I. Werner, J.D., MSLS, Licensed School Library Media Coordinator, Raleigh, NC

II. Clerk's Office Update and Practical Filing Tips for ICMS and EDPF

Emily Baucom, Clerk of the Industrial Commission, NCIC

4:00 Adjourn

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 16, 2026

- 8:00 **Continental Breakfast**
- 9:00 **Diabetes and Workers' Compensation Injuries**
E. Kenneth (Kenny) Coble, Willson Jones Carter & Baxley, Charlotte, NC;
John C. Parker, M.D., Raleigh Medical Group, Raleigh, NC;
Bradley (Brad) H. Smith, The Law Offices of Bradley H. Smith, Charlotte, NC
- 10:00 **Break - Visit Exhibit Hall**
- 10:30 **Break-Out Sessions - Choose one (1) session of two (2) listed below**
- I. Ethics Considerations for Workers' Compensation Mediators**
(Fulfills one (1) hour CME credit)
Jackie Clare, Clare Mediation, Raleigh, NC;
Kevin Howell, Deputy Commissioner and Dispute Resolution Coordinator, NCIC;
Tara Kozlowski, Executive Director, NC Dispute Resolution Commission, Raleigh, NC
- II. Ethics Considerations for Rehabilitation Professionals**
(Fulfills one (1) hour Ethics credit for CCM & CDMS)
Vicki Hewitt-McNeil, Rehabilitation Nurse Consultant, NCIC;
Jodie Nolf, RN, CRRN, CCM, CLCP, Nolf Case Management & Consulting, Raleigh, NC
- 11:30 **Occupational Diseases: Medical and Legal Issues**
Matthew Case, DO, MMCi, MPH, Duke Occupational Health, Durham, NC;
April Gladkin, The Sumwalt Group, Raleigh, NC;
Caroline Parrish, Teague Campbell, Raleigh, NC
- 12:30 **Adjourn**