

SEMINAR OVERVIEW

Morning Session:

7:45 - 8:30 a.m.: Registration, Introduction and Networking
(Continental Breakfast Included)

8:30 - 9:30 a.m. **Fundamentals of NJ Workers' Comp, Key Recent Decisions, and Tips on Winning Cases**

John H. Geaney, Esq., Capehart Scatchard

- ◆ Understanding the key decisions in 2017 that you need to know
- ◆ Why do NY and PA claimants love to file in NJ and what can be done about this?
- ◆ How do permanency awards get decided and what can employers do to minimize them?
- ◆ A checklist of strategies employers need to win cases in NJ
- ◆ Why choosing the right medical expert can make all the difference

9:30 - 10:15 a.m. **Return to Work, Light Duty, Job Descriptions and FCEs**

**Ray Blanchfield, Farm Family Insurance Company
Mary Jane Hydro, NJ Risk Managers & Consultants, Inc.**

**Doris Dicristina, B.S.N., M.S.H.C.M, RN, C.O.H.N.-S./C.M., FAAOHN, William H. Connolly & Co.
Quin Bond, Biokinetics**

Moderator: John H. Geaney, Esq.

- ◆ Why light duty programs make sense and how to design them
- ◆ How to focus on returning injured workers to the workplace
- ◆ The ever increasing importance of functional job descriptions
- ◆ When and why to obtain an FCE and how an FCE can help in workers' compensation cases
- ◆ Tips on communicating with workers while they are out of work

10:15 - 10:30 a.m. **Morning Break and Network with Vendors**

10:30 - 11:15 a.m. **Complex Issues in NJ Workers' Compensation**

Stephen T. Fannon, Esq., Capehart Scatchard

- ◆ Understanding the law on job termination and temp benefits
- ◆ When are injuries in off-site parking lots compensable post *Hersh*?
- ◆ What kind of discovery is important in occupational disease claims?
- ◆ How do you posture a case when the Second Injury Fund could be involved?
- ◆ Advice on third-party liens: when to compromise and when to hold the line

11:15 a.m. - Noon **Failed Back Syndrome In Workers' Compensation**

Dr. Charles Gatto, The Advanced Spine Center

- ◆ Recurrent disc herniation, failed fusion, scar formation, technical surgical errors: what is and is not considered failed back syndrome?
- ◆ Learn how to avoid getting into this situation in the first place
- ◆ What can a physician do to mitigate the effects of failed back syndrome?
- ◆ When does palliative care work for true failed back syndrome?
- ◆ Know your treatment options for failed back syndrome

Noon - 1:00 p.m. **Buffet Lunch Included (network with speakers and visit sponsor booths)**

Afternoon Session:

1:00 - 1:45 p.m. **Breaking Bad: How Workers' Comp Cases May Become FMLA and ADA Nightmares**

Carmen Saginario Jr., Esq., Capehart Scatchard

Moderator: John H. Geaney, Esq., Capehart Scatchard

- ◆ What are the lessons from the Supreme Court in *Grande v. Saint Clare's Health System*?
- ◆ How long does an employer have to hold open a job under *Echeverria v. Astrazeneca*?
- ◆ At what point do you need to seek labor advice in a workers' comp claim?
- ◆ What can employers do to make reasonable accommodation to those with disabilities?
- ◆ Why job descriptions are absolutely pivotal in avoiding disability-based discrimination claims.

1:45 - 2:30 p.m. **Causation Issues in Foot Injuries in NJ Comp**

Dr. Wayne Berberian, The Ankle and Foot Institute

- ◆ How to analyze complex foot claims in patients with diabetes and prior foot conditions
- ◆ Causation and treatment issues with stress fractures
- ◆ Does medical literature relate plantar fasciitis to long standing and walking?
- ◆ Performing the correct procedure in catastrophic foot injuries
- ◆ Learn about foot claims caused allegedly by altered gait from injuries to the knee

2:30 - 2:45 p.m. **Afternoon Break (Network with vendors)**

2:45 - 3:40 p.m. **A Civil Debate: Petitioner & Respondent Attorneys Face Off!**

**Carla P. Aldarelli, Esq., Capehart Scatchard
Ron Siegel, Esq., Goldstein, Ballen, O'Rourke & Wildstein**

Moderator: John H. Geaney, Esq., Capehart Scatchard

- ◆ Do we need more formal discovery in workers' compensation on both sides?
- ◆ Has the decision in *Cunningham* been taken too far by the courts?
- ◆ Should hand injuries be valued higher and shoulder injuries be valued lower?
- ◆ Social Activity Claims: Tina buys coffee and donuts for the office and gets struck in the store parking lot: compensable?
- ◆ Was the decision in *Benimadho v. Somerville Boro Fire Dept* correct where volunteer firefighter's intervention to prevent bullying was found not compensable?

3:40 - 4:00 p.m. **The NJ Comp Jeopardy Game!!!**

- ◆ Watch three talented contestants chosen from the audience match wits on NJ comp
- ◆ Learn about the NJ statute in this fun and entertaining session

4:00 p.m. **Program Concludes**