



PROGRAM AGENDA

**Today's Trends, Tomorrow's Solutions
2025 NWCDN Annual Conference**

**Radisson Blu Aqua
Chicago, Illinois**

**September 24 - Reception & Dinner Cruise
6:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m.**

September 25 - Educational Program



2025 NWCDN Annual Conference

The National Workers' Compensation Defense Network (NWCDN) is a unique and dynamic organization consisting of attorneys representing 48 states, Washington DC and Canada.

Together, the members of NWCDN have produced this conference, which addresses incisive topics that are timely to the business of Workers' Compensation.

We are very proud and honored to have the experts who have agreed to speak at our annual conference. Our agenda was designed to have something for everyone and each topic is relevant to our day-to-day profession.

The all-day conference will be held at the iconic Radisson Blu Aqua hotel located at 221 N. Columbus Drive, Chicago IL 60601.

[Register Here](#)

We have reserved a block of guest rooms at the hotel at a negotiated group rate of \$279. The block will be held until September 1 or until the block sells out.

[Reserve Your Room Here](#)

The conference is open to NWCDN member firms and their invited guests only.



We look forward to welcoming you to Chicago!

Thursday, September 25, 2025

- 8:00 a.m. Registration and Continental Breakfast** - Atlantic Ballroom DE
- 9:00 a.m. Welcome and Opening Remarks** - Atlantic Ballroom C
Fred Baker, NWCDN President, NWCDN Tennessee Member
Chelsie Springstead, Planning Committee Member, NWCDN Wisconsin Member
- 9:05 a.m. What Would Your State Do (1): Wage Issues**
Sponsoring NWCDN Member States will be split between 4 sessions and will each provide their state response to the question posed on Wage Issues
Moderated By: **Melissa Stone**, NWCDN Wisconsin Member
- 9:50 a.m. From Clinic to Courtroom:** Case reviews with Dr. Cole's medical perspective on injury causation and dual legal perspectives.
Moderated By: **Kisa Sthankiya**, NWCDN Illinois Member
James Ranta, NWCDN Michigan Member
Presented by: **Brian Cole**, MD, MBA, Midwest Orthopaedics at Rush
- 10:50 a.m. Networking Break** - Atlantic Ballroom DE
- 11:15 a.m. What Would Your State Do (2): Wage Issues**
Moderated By: **Alison Stewart**, NWCDN Iowa Member
- 12:00 p.m. Lunch is Hosted by NWCDN** - Atlantic Ballroom DE
- 1:00 p.m. Multi-View Look on How AI is Used in WC**
Presented By: **Mike Fish**, NWCDN Alabama Member
Bob Wilson, President, WorkCompCollege.com
Claude, AI Assistant, Anthropic
and **Avatar Bob**
- 2:00 p.m. What Would Your State Do (3): Wage Issues**
Moderated By: **Melissa Stone**, NWCDN Wisconsin Member
- 2:45 p.m. Networking Break** - Atlantic Ballroom DE
- 3:15 p.m. Psychological Injury in the Workplace:** Trauma mediation, impairment prevention and the roles of the IME
Moderated By: **Jaclyn Jednachowski**, NWCDN Illinois Member
Presented by: **Douglas Craig**, PsyD, Midwest Orthopaedics at Rush
- 4:15 p.m. What Would Your State Do (4): Wage Issues**
Moderated By: **Chelsie Springstead**, NWCDN Wisconsin Member
- 5:00 p.m. Cocktail Reception at Radisson Blu Aqua Hosted by NWCDN**
Atlantic Ballroom Foyer

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