

Rehabilitation Provider Update

SPEAKERS

Nicole Kue

Nicole Kue is a senior compliance officer in the Compliance, Records and Training (CRT) unit within the Workers' Compensation Division at the Department of Labor and Industry (DLI). Her roles include analyzing, regulating and enforcing statutory compliance of workers' compensation statutes through audits and penalty assessments. In addition, she also provides assistance to external and internal stakeholders, and creates and presents training resources about best claims management and procedural compliance topics. Prior to DLI, Kue worked filing adjusted workers' compensation claims for several years. She earned a bachelor's degree from the University of Minnesota. She enjoys spending time with her husband and son, photography, trying new foods and traveling.



Jessica Stimac

Jessica Stimac has been the assistant commissioner for workers' compensation at the Department of Labor and Industry (DLI) since February 2024. As assistant commissioner, she oversees DLI's Workers' Compensation Division, Office of Workers' Compensation Ombudsman and Office of General Counsel. Prior to her work as assistant commissioner, Stimac served as chief general counsel of the agency, leading DLI's Office of General Counsel since 2018. Before leading the Office of General Counsel, Stimac was a Workers' Compensation Division director from 2012 to 2018, a supervisor in the Special Compensation Fund unit from 2010 to 2012, and a mediator in the Alternative Dispute Resolution unit from 2006 to 2010. Before joining DLI, Stimac worked as a litigator, practicing in the area of workers' compensation. She earned a bachelor of science degree from the University of Notre Dame and her law degree from the University of St. Thomas School of Law.



Ethan Landy

Ethan Landy is the deputy chief general counsel in the Department of Labor and Industry's Office of General Counsel. He has worked in the Office of General Counsel since 2015, and primarily advises the Workers' Compensation Division regarding legislation, rules and compliance. Landy is a graduate of the University of Minnesota Law School and lives in St. Paul, Minnesota.



Speakers

Bretta Hines

Bretta Hines is an attorney in the Department of Labor and Industry's Office of General Counsel. She joined the Office of General Counsel in October 2023 after several years of legal practice in workers' compensation and employment law. Prior to becoming an attorney, Hines worked in employee benefits for a large national insurance company. When not at work, she enjoys babysitting her two toddler nephews, walking her dog, and being out on the water or playing in the snow.



Hared Mah

Hared Mah is a research scientist in the Department of Labor and Industry's Research and Data Analytics unit. He has been with the agency since 2022. Mah previously worked at the Department of Human Services as a data analyst.



Tim O'Neill

Tim O'Neill is a regional analyst for the Department of Employment and Economic Development's seven-county Twin Cities region of Minnesota. He earned a bachelor's degree in history and political science from St. Olaf College in Northfield, Minnesota, and a master's degree in public policy from the Humphrey School of Public Affairs at the University of Minnesota in Minneapolis.



Terry Buisman

Terry Buisman is the co-owner of OrthoRehab Specialists, Inc. He has been a full-time clinician for 38 years in an outpatient orthopedic clinical setting with a focus of adult shoulder care, often with co-morbidities and underlying cervical based pathology. He has examined and treated more than 10,000 shoulder patients during this time, subsequently publishing and providing continuing education on the subject matter. He can be reached by email at t.buisman@mchsi.com.



Speakers

Joy Kluttz-Horton

Joy Kluttz-Horton is the director of Diversity, Equity and Inclusion at the Department of Labor and Industry. In her role, she leads the planning and strategic direction of diversity, equity and inclusion (DEI) initiatives across the agency. Before joining DLI, she worked at Minnesota Management and Budget as the DEI learning and development consultant and at the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency as a DEI training and development specialist. Prior to working for the state of Minnesota, Kluttz-Horton worked in higher education for more than 20 years leading departments that supported the institutions' DEI missions and goals. She earned a master's degree in organizational management from Concordia University, a bachelor's degree in sociology from University of Wisconsin – River Falls and a diploma in multicultural human resources from Dakota County Technical College. In addition to her formal education, she is an intercultural development inventory qualified administrator and has extensive training and background in social justice, intergroup dialogue, restorative justice and crosscultural communications.

