



NWCEF Educational Seminar & Annual Meeting

**February 28, 2025
Mahoney State Park
8:30 am – 12:30 pm**

8:00 – 8:30 am | Registration

8:30 – 8:35 am | Opening Remarks, Dallas Jones, NWCEF President

8:35 – 9:10 am | Lessons to be Learned from the Trial and Appellate Courts

Speakers:

Paul Barta, Baylor Evnen Wolfe & Tannehill, LLP

Adam Barrett, Baylor Evnen Wolfe & Tannehill, LLP

“Learn from the mistakes of others. You can’t live long enough to make them all yourself.”

Eleanor Roosevelt

If we’re willing to listen, the judges are telling us a lot. Learn from the mistakes, and wisdom, of others so you’re better equipped to know what to do and not do.

9:10 – 9:40 am | 2025 NWCEF Legislative Agenda—Resolving Problems that Matter to You

Speakers:

Subrogation

David Dudley, Baylor Evnen Wolfe & Tannehill, LLP

Curtis Ruwe, Crete Carrier Corp.

Confidentiality of First Reports of Injury

Tami Kunc, Smithfield Foods, Inc.

Patient Waiver

Jeanette Jolkowski, Risk Administration Services, Inc.

- Subrogation rules are complicated, confusing and expensive to apply. *We can do better.*
- When you do the right thing and file a FROI, your employees are bombarded by solicitations from trial lawyers telling your employees you will cheat them, and the lawyer will make them a lot of money. *That needs to stop.*
- Your employee's attorney threatens penalties if you don't immediately begin paying benefits. You suspect your employee's medical problems are longstanding and unrelated to his job with your company. But your employee refuses to allow you to obtain his records. *It doesn't have to be that way.*

9:40 – 9:45 am | *Why NWCEF Membership Matters*

Speaker: Jim Steele, Airlite Plastics, Co.

What have we done for you lately?

9:45 – 10:00 am | Break

10:00 – 10:45 am | *Psychological Claims are on the Rise. Why and What you Can do about it*

Speakers:

Ryan Ernst, Psy.D., MSCP, Neuro Health, PC

David Williams, Boys Town

Do physical injuries really cause more psychological problems now than in the past? If so why? How do you manage them, or defend them, when they occur?

10:45 – 10:50 am | *Kids' Chance of Nebraska—Helping Make a Difference*

Speaker: Dallas Jones, NWCEF President

10:50 – 11:30 am | *The Worst Mistakes, and Best Moves, Employers Make when Handling Claims*

Speakers:

Mikayla Hoffmann, Baylor Evnen Wolfe & Tannehill, LLP

Joe Dowding, Dowding, Dowding, Dowding, & Urbom

Kim Rapolla, Chief Industries, Inc.

“The definition of insanity is doing the same thing over and over again and expecting different results.” Whether Albert Einstein said that or not, the lesson applies to claims. This panel will explore what you can do differently, if you want different results.

11:30 – 12:15 pm | *Legislative Update—A Review of the Legislative Bills Affecting the Workers' Compensation System, and a Discussion of Developments in the Business and Labor Committee*

Speakers:

Senator Bob Hallstrom and Ryan McIntosh, NWCEF Lobbyist and Executive Secretary

Key players in the Legislature will preview this session's bills, which impact workers' compensation, what they mean to employers, the status of those bills, and what employers can do to promote or oppose them.

12:15 – 12:30 pm | *Closing Remarks and Brief Membership Meeting*

Speaker: Dallas Jones, NWCEF President