

2026 **SPRING
CONFERENCE**

April 23-25, 2026

The Newbury Boston | Boston, MA



FACULTY GUESTS

The Harmonie Group and Canadian Litigation Counsel would like to thank the following industry leaders for their participation in our 2026 Spring Conference. We are especially appreciative of them sharing their knowledge and insights into their respective fields and areas of expertise.

VANDANA ABRAMS

Senior Counsel - Litigation
Maersk Agency USA, Inc.

Vandana Abrams is Litigation Counsel at Maersk and handles claims and litigation in North America. While she primarily handles personal injury matters, Vandana also manages contractual and commercial disputes as needed. Vandana began her legal career in the Chatham County District Attorney's Office, prosecuting intimate partner violence crimes. She then moved into private practice, handling the defense of transportation claims and medical malpractice claims.



ALLISON BROWN

Associate General Counsel
BrightSpring Health Services

Allison Brown is Deputy General Counsel and Chief Privacy Officer with BrightSpring Health Services, Inc., a leading provider of comprehensive home and community-based health services to complex populations in need of specialized care. At BrightSpring, Allison manages all non-employment litigation, including professional liability, False Claims Act, commercial, and administrative/regulatory disputes. She also advises the company on regulatory matters, including HIPAA compliance and privacy incident response, and supports the company's Corporate Development team in mergers, acquisitions, and divestitures. Allison earned her law degree from the University of Washington School of Law and undergraduate degrees from Boston University.



KATY BRYDE

Vice President - Claims
Old Republic Specialty Insurance
Underwriters

Katy Bryde joined Old Republic Specialty Insurance Underwriters in April 2019, as a Director of Claims. Katy was promoted to a leadership role as AVP of Claims in August 2021 and then as a VP of Claims in March of 2025. Katy currently manages a team that specializes in both commercial property and casualty programs (which include agriculture, sports and entertainment, builder's risk, habitational cat, etc.) as well as alternative risks (public entity business). Many of the claims she directly oversees involve complex litigation. She has over 15 years of insurance claims experience. Katy earned a Bachelor of Arts from The University of Maryland (2009) and obtained her law degree (JD) from Temple University in 2019.



LAWRENCE CONMIGO

Director of Specialty Claims
Intact Financial Corporation
(Intact Public Entities)

Lawrence Alvarez Conmigo is Director of Claims and Sr. Counsel at Intact Financial Corporation (Intact Public Entities), where he leads the Claims Department and oversees a complex portfolio of specialty and public entity claims. He is responsible for claims strategy, operational leadership, talent development, and legal oversight on high exposure matters involving municipalities, public entities, and other complex risks. His work includes leading claims teams through challenging liability, damages, coverage, and resolution issues. With a foundation in litigation and years of leadership in claims, Lawrence brings legal insight, sound judgment, and operational discipline to his role. He holds a Juris Doctor degree from the University of Windsor, a Master of Laws in Civil Litigation and Dispute Resolution from Osgoode Hall Law School at York University, and a Bachelor of Arts from Glendon College at York University.



JOSE ESCALANTE

Senior Claims Examiner Tokio Marine Claims

Jose Escalante is a dedicated professional with 30+ years of experience in the insurance industry. Currently, as a Senior Claims Examiner for 10 years at TM Claims Service, Inc., Jose handles a variety of product cases from power tools to large machinery and automobile claims. Jose handles product cases in the United States, Canada and Mexico. As a Senior Examiner, he works closely with defense attorneys in the preparation and review of all matters and is a strong part of the case development and direction. Jose takes great pride in developing strong relationships with the attorneys retained in order to establish trust with his clients. Jose believes the results achieved with his cases stem from early discussions where potential outcomes are determined to avoid surprises in the end.



DENNIS GALVIN

Vice President, Claims TDC Specialty Underwriters, Inc.

Dennis has over 20 years of experience handling and managing complex professional liability and management liability claims. Prior to joining TDC Specialty Underwriters, Dennis served as Vice President – Claims at Argo Pro where he oversaw the Errors and Omissions Claims Group. Before joining Argo Pro, Dennis was the Vice President – Professional Liability Claims at OneBeacon Professional Insurance. In addition to his experience in leading claims teams, Dennis was an individual contributor in the Miscellaneous Professional Liability Group at Lexington Insurance. Dennis began his professional career in private practice where he handled both criminal and civil defense matters. Dennis is focused on building and managing a high performing claims team and delivering best in class customer service. Dennis graduated from Stonehill College in North Easton, MA with a B.A. in American Studies and a minor in Communications. Dennis also graduated from Northeastern University School of Law in Boston, MA with a Juris Doctor.



KATE HAUSMAN

Supervisory Senior Staff Attorney American Family Mutual Insurance Company, S.I.

Katherine “Kate” Hausman is currently employed by American Family as a Supervisory Attorney within the Complex West group. In her role, she oversees outside counsel handling complex cases in jurisdictions west of the Mississippi River. Before joining American Family, Kate served as an in-house litigation attorney at Farmers Insurance for five years. Prior to that, she spent nearly seven years as an in-house litigation attorney with Liberty Mutual. At the start of her legal career, immediately following law school, Kate worked in private practice, where she handled criminal defense, civil defense, and FELA defense matters.



KATE HENDERSON

Senior In-House Counsel of Litigation Camping World | Good Sam

Kate Henderson is Senior In-House Counsel of Litigation for Camping World and its affiliated brands, where she manages a national portfolio of matters spanning commercial, consumer, real estate, ADA, and privacy disputes. She has been with the company for over five years and is known for driving strategic, cost-effective litigation outcomes. Kate works closely with internal stakeholders and outside counsel to develop practical, business-oriented solutions across a diverse range of legal issues. She earned her undergraduate degree from Clemson University and her J.D. from Elon University School of Law, and is admitted to practice in South Carolina (with inactive status in North Carolina).



RYAN KAJUNSKI

Head of L&S Claims, NAM Maersk

Ryan Kajunski is a senior claims, risk, and operations leader with nearly 20 years of experience across logistics, insurance, and customer-facing organizations. He currently serves as Head of Logistics & Services Claims, North America at Maersk, where he leads end-to-end claims strategy for a multibillion-dollar portfolio, focusing on governance, risk mitigation, data driven decision-making, and technology enabled transformation. Known for building high performing teams and partnering closely with executive stakeholders, Ryan brings a pragmatic, customer focused approach to managing complex risk and operational change.



KERRIE ANNE KITTS

Senior Manager, Specialized Claims, Excess & Surplus Claims Hanover Insurance Group

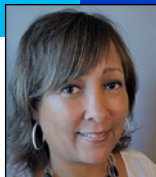
Kerrie's legal career began at the law firm of Patterson, Phifer and Phillips in Detroit, Michigan. It was there she found her love of insurance that has carried her career to this day. She currently leads a team of national adjusters providing technical guidance on the Excess & Surplus Claims book at The Hanover Insurance Group. Prior to joining The Hanover, Kerrie was an AVP with Cincinnati Insurance, a Regional Manager for Liberty Mutual, spent 12 years with Farmers Insurance in a variety of leadership roles that included National Coverage Manager, Claims Counsel Manager and Southeast Technical Consultant. Kerrie also spent 10 years with Nationwide Insurance in a variety of leadership positions.



TONYA LATTER

Director of Claims & Litigation Coca-Cola Consolidated, Inc.

Tonya Latter is Director of Claims & Litigation at Coca-Cola Consolidated, Inc., based in Charlotte, North Carolina, and a seasoned claims leadership professional with more than 20 years of experience in workers' compensation claims and litigation strategy. Tonya holds a Bachelor's degree in Business Management from North Carolina A&T State University. Prior to joining Coca-Cola Consolidated, Tonya worked for both an insurance carrier and a third-party administrator (TPA), providing a well-rounded perspective across the claims lifecycle. She leads enterprise claims programs with a focus on partnerships, performance management, litigation outcomes, and cost containment. Tonya's leadership and workers' compensation program has been recognized through the 2022 Teddy Award Program of Distinction honor.



LAURA LEVIN

SVP, Managing Claims Counsel CAC Specialty

Laura Levin is an accomplished Claims Counsel with 14 years of Financial Lines experience. She joined CAC Specialty in May 2023 as a Vice President, Claims Counsel and was recently promoted to Senior Vice President, Managing Claims Counsel, a role in which she leads a team of attorneys handling high-severity FLP claims on behalf of CAC's clients. In addition to her leadership responsibilities, Laura manages her own portfolio of claims involving large, complex insurance programs. Prior to joining CAC Specialty, Laura served as Claims Counsel for several leading Financial Lines insurers. In these roles, she managed increasingly complex matters, with a particular focus on public company D&O claims and coverage issues. During her time on the insurer side, Laura mentored junior claims professionals and led subject matter and professional development trainings. Laura earned her Juris Doctor from New York Law School and her Bachelor of Arts from the University of North Carolina. She is licensed to practice law in New York and New Jersey.



AMY LIEBL

Vice President – General Liability Claims

Skyward Specialty Insurance Company

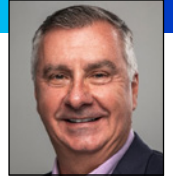


Amy Liebl is the Vice President of General Liability Claims at Skyward Specialty Insurance. She has worked in the insurance industry since 1996, with prior roles at MetLife, Riverstone Resources, Ohio Casualty Group, Nationwide E&S/Scottsdale Insurance Company, and AmTrust North America. In her current role, she leads the General Liability Claims Department—overseeing two Assistant Vice Presidents and thirteen front-line contributors—handling general liability and excess claims across both admitted and surplus lines. Prior to moving into leadership, she managed high-exposure, complex litigated claims involving personal and commercial auto, general liability, specialty and excess/umbrella lines.

BILL MCPARLAND

Vice President of Risk Management

Quality Carriers, Inc.

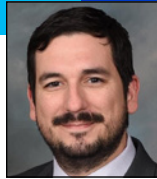


Bill is the Vice President of Risk Management for Quality Carriers (QC), based out of Tampa, Florida. Quality Carriers is the largest chemical and bulk tanker transportation carrier with 2500 drivers and 6400 trailers, working with industry leaders like Dow Chemical Company, Shell, Procter & Gamble, DuPont, and PPG Industries. Bill's career spans over 30 years and specializes in building company programs while not only leading risk management, but also safety, security and insurance teams. Bill has led these teams not only in the field of Transportation, but also for Saddle Creek Logistics, one of the largest family owned Third Party Logistics; as well as several retail organizations. Bill holds a Master of Science – Risk Management/Insurance from Florida State University; as well as designations of Certified Director of Safety, Food Safety Coordinator and Certified Property and Casualty Underwriter.

JACOB MORENO

Director of Claims – Litigation

Ally Financial



Jacob has over 20 years of experience in the insurance industry, holding various claims and leadership roles. He has handled and managed complex commercial insurance cases nationwide. Currently, Jacob is Director of Litigated Claims at Ally, focusing on CGL and commercial auto claims in the auto dealership space. Jacob has spoken on various topics around litigation management and improving the carrier/defense relationship at industry events including CLM and NRRDA conferences. Jacob holds a BA in English from the University of Texas at Arlington, a J.D. from Texas Wesleyan School of Law, and an LL.M. in Insurance Law from Cooley Law School and is a licensed Texas attorney.

ANELIA MURRAY

Sr. Claims Specialist, Cyber/E&O Claims

Westfield Specialty

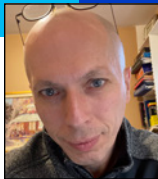


Anelia Murray is a Senior Claims Specialist with over 10 years of experience in the insurance industry, specializing in cyber and professional liability. Anelia manages complex claims, evaluates risk, and delivers strategic, client-focused solutions. Known for her strong problem-solving skills and deep industry expertise, Anelia consistently drives efficient outcomes while navigating evolving cyber risks. She is also an experienced speaker and panelist, sharing insights on cyber threats and best practices nationwide.

DAVID OWEN

Director Large Complex & Specialty Claims Definity

With thirty-five years of experience, David Owen started his insurance career in 1988 at State Farm and has held adjusting and leadership roles in every aspect of insurance claims. Most notable, David has held Director roles at Intact, Royal Sun Alliance, and Definity Insurance. Currently at Definity, as the Director of Large Complex and Specialty Claims, David's responsibilities include the management of all large losses in the organization as well as forming and articulating the company's litigation strategy. David is a resident of Burlington, Ontario where he sits on an accessibility advisory committee to the municipal government.



MARISA POULOS

Assistant VP, Sr. Associate Counsel Ameris Bank Equipment Finance

Marisa Poulos has over 25 years of experience as a litigation and corporate attorney and has represented clients in complex federal and state court litigation. After Ameris Bancorp, through its subsidiary Ameris Bank, acquired Balboa Capital Corp. in 2021, she transitioned from litigating contract matters to managing outside counsel on all litigation, bankruptcy, and other corporate matters. In addition, she served as a Judge Pro Tem and has taught business law at the undergraduate level. She joined Balboa Capital Corp. in 2017.



MORIAH POWERS

Quality Performance Manager Senior Gallagher Bassett

Moriah Powers is a claims operations leader with nearly two decades of experience in workers' compensation and complex claims management. She has led teams across indemnity, medical, complex, and catastrophic claim environments. She began her career as a claims adjuster and advanced into supervisory and management roles at Texas Mutual Insurance Company. She later served as Claims Manager for Complex and Catastrophic Claims at Clear Spring Property and Casualty Group. Moriah holds a Bachelor of Business Administration from the University of Wisconsin and maintains her Associate in Claims Management designation and Lean Six Sigma Green Belt. She is licensed as an All-Lines Adjuster in multiple jurisdictions. Moriah currently serves as Quality Performance Manager Senior at Gallagher Bassett. In this role, she leads a specialized team that partners with branches and client programs to support claim quality and operational consistency.



SAMI SHAKER

Senior Director, Accident Reconstruction J.S. Held

Sami Shaker joined J.S. Held in July of 2022 as part of J.S. Held's acquisition of Kods Forensic Engineering. Sami graduated with a Bachelor of Science degree (Honours Physics co-op) from McMaster University and has versatile industrial experience in nuclear energy, radiation health and safety, and has recently been conducting medical research in the field of rheumatology. Mr. Shaker has been able to use these past experiences and apply much of what he has learned to his current work. He has conducted damage consistency analysis, vehicle examinations (including black box data imaging and analysis), accident site survey as well as accident reconstruction including determining speed calculations/estimates, collision severity, computer simulations, vehicle and occupant kinematics, injury biomechanics, and slip, trip and fall investigations.



CHANEL SMITH

Senior GL Claims Specialist Seneca Insurance Company

Chanel is a claims professional with more than 15 years of experience as a paralegal, specializing in New Jersey and New York no-fault personal injury protection auto insurance. In 2022, she transitioned into commercial general liability claims management, leveraging her legal background to handle complex casualty claims. Since joining Seneca in May of 2024, Chanel has served as a Senior GL Claims Specialist in the Casualty Claims department, applying legal expertise and analytical skills to deliver efficient claim resolutions. She holds a Juris Doctor degree from Western New England University and is a licensed attorney.



SHANNAN SMITH

Lockton Companies

Shannan has more than 25 years in the insurance industry with 12 of those years serving as corporate counsel at healthcare staffing firms. At U.S. Nursing Corporation, Shannan focused on insurance claims management and contract drafting and negotiation. While at Correctional Healthcare Companies, Shannan was directly responsible for the oversight of day-to-day health related legal issues at over 150 correctional facilities nationwide including medical malpractice exposures. Along with strong technical expertise, Shannan brings a wealth of knowledge related to account and program management. Shannan maintains a consultative approach in working with clients, insurance carriers, TPAs, vendor partners and attorneys. Shannan is the Associate Director of Specialty Claims supervising several claims teams within the Lockton West Series.



MARI SPINA

Senior Vice President, Claims TDC Specialty Underwriters

Mari began her insurance carrier career in 1986 and has built an accomplished career spanning more than 30 years in healthcare, handling medical professional liability claims and leading professional liability teams. Prior to joining TDC Specialty Underwriters, she spent most of her career in senior healthcare claims leadership roles with several prominent organizations. Mari joined TDC Specialty Underwriters in May 2016 to lead TDCSU's claims function, successfully leveraging her medical professional liability expertise while expanding her leadership to include TDCSU's non-medical claims operations. She has extensive experience leading and developing high-performing medical and non-medical claims teams, fostering a culture of sound judgment, consistency, and strategic decision-making. Mari works closely with underwriting, risk management, legal, and executive stakeholders to align claims practices with organizational objectives, improve outcomes, and manage risk effectively.



MATTHEW STROMQUIST

General Counsel GEA North America, Inc.

Matt is general counsel at GEA, a global technology, engineering, and manufacturing company based in Germany. Matt is responsible for legal operations for multiple divisions of GEA in the United States, Canada, New Zealand, and Australia, including overseeing all litigation. Prior to joining GEA in 2022, Matt was a partner at a boutique litigation firm in Chicago, specializing in financial services litigation and class action defense. Matt began his legal career as an associate at a large law firm in Denver specializing in commercial and construction litigation. Matt received his JD with highest honors, order of the coif, from the University of Iowa College of Law. After graduating he served as a law clerk on the DC Court of Appeals. Matt has a B.A. in anthropology from Haverford College and a Master's Degree in Ethnomusicology from the University of Texas at Austin.



PETER VENTRE

Vice President & Senior Claims Counsel

CATIC



Peter A. Ventre is a senior legal executive and litigator with more than three decades of experience spanning federal clerkships, private practice, corporate compliance, and in-house counsel roles. He currently serves as Vice President and Senior Claims Counsel at Connecticut Attorneys Title Insurance Company (CATIC), where he manages complex title and real estate claims from intake through coverage determination, litigation, resolution, and recovery across multiple states. Previously, he was Partner and Deputy Assistant General Counsel at McCalla Raymer Leibert Pierce and Partner, General Counsel, and Senior Litigation Associate at Hunt, Leibert, Jacobson, P.C. At CATIC, Peter leverages his litigation background to drive sound claims strategies, mitigate risk, and support business objectives. He began his career as a Federal Law Clerk to a United States Magistrate Judge and as an Assistant Clerk in the Connecticut Superior Court. A Nova University Law Center graduate, Peter is admitted to the bars of Connecticut and Florida.