



2025 **SPRING CONFERENCE**

May 15-17, 2025

Willard Intercontinental | Washington, DC



FACULTY GUESTS

The Harmonie Group and Canadian Litigation Counsel would like to thank the following industry leaders for their participation in our 2025 Spring Conference. We are especially appreciative of them sharing their knowledge and insights into their respective fields and areas of expertise.

THERESA CHIMENTO

Vice President

J.S. Held, LLC

Theresa Chimento is an experienced environmental consultant and the U.S. Operations Lead for the Environmental, Health & Safety (EH&S) Practice. She has extensive experience in environmental consulting, covering all project phases from initial scope assessment, budgeting and development to project closeout and final report documentation. Theresa collaborates closely with clients and key stakeholders to ensure all regulatory and project compliance standards are met. Her fields of expertise in project work include claims disaster response; consulting for renovations/restoration/rehab of the built environment; hazards mitigation through initial surveys, design, oversight and closeout such as for asbestos, lead, and additional hazards; and general consulting for a wide range of clients including the insurance space, federal and state entities, municipalities, and large public and private organizations.



ROBERTO GONZALEZ

Vice President – Claims

Claims Direct Access
(Prime Insurance Syndicate)

Roberto Gonzalez has been handling claims since 1991. Currently, he is a Claims Supervisor for Claims Direct Access, which is an in-house TPA for Prime Insurance Company. Mr. Gonzalez specializes in handling and supervising commercial trucking type claims throughout the United States. He is a native of Del Rio, TX, but currently resides in Bluffdale, Utah. Mr. Gonzalez completed his undergraduate studies at Brigham Young University and obtained an MBA from Oregon State University.



JEFFERY D. HAIGH

General Counsel & Executive Officer Chase Corporation

Jeff Haigh is General Counsel and Executive Officer of Chase Corporation. In his current role, Jeff is an integral part of managing the strategic direction of the company with the goal of driving growth and innovation through a focus on governance, compliance, regulatory, risk mitigation, and environmental and corporate social responsibility. He also manages the legal function for the parent company and its subsidiaries, both domestically and internationally. Prior to joining Chase Corporation, Jeff had his own practice specializing in corporate litigation. With more than 25 years in commercial/business law, Jeff has extensive experience in global mergers and acquisitions, corporate ethics and compliance programs, corporate transactions, employment matters, litigation/risk management, intellectual property, strategic planning and business development.



ERICK W. HARRIS

Vice President for Legal Services & General Counsel United Petroleum Transports

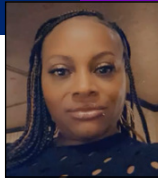
Erick W. Harris is the Vice President for Legal Services and General Counsel for United Petroleum Transports, Inc. He also serves as a member of the Oklahoma House of Representatives, representing House District 39. Before entering private practice, Erick was an Assistant Attorney General for the Oklahoma Attorney General's Office. Erick is licensed to practice law in all state courts and federal district courts in Oklahoma and Texas and is a member of the board of trustees for Tuskegee University. Erick is a graduate of the University of Oklahoma College of Law. He received a Master of Public Administration degree from the University of Oklahoma. Erick received a Bachelor of Arts in Political Science from Tuskegee University where he served as Student Body President.



LAKEISHA HASKINS

Senior Property Claims Examiner Seneca Insurance Company, Inc.

As a seasoned Senior Property Claims Examiner at Seneca Insurance Company, Inc., Lakeisha Haskins brings over 24 years of expertise in the insurance sector, particularly in delivering top-notch claims services to our insured clients. Seneca's priority is to ensure prompt, fair, and transparent claims processing, providing their clients with the necessary support during critical times. Lakeisha is dedicated to utilizing her skills for exceptional customer service. Beyond her professional life, she enjoys reading, exploring new cuisines, and spending quality time with family and friends.



EDWARD KANEVSKY

Chief Claims Officer and General Counsel GB Group, LLC

Ed Kanevsky currently serves as the Chief Claims Officer and General Counsel at GB Group LLC, a position he has held since 2018. In this role, he oversees the retention and management of outside counsel, ensures compliance with Department of Insurance regulations, communicates with reinsurance providers, and participates in the resolution of high-exposure claims. Ed earned his Juris Doctor from Widener University School of Law with Distinction in Insurance Law while working full time. He graduated magna cum laude from Temple University with a Bachelor of Arts in Criminal Justice and a minor in Business Administration. He is admitted to practice law in Pennsylvania, New Jersey, and before the U.S. District Courts for the Eastern District of Pennsylvania and the District of New Jersey. Ed lives in suburban Philadelphia with his wife and two children.



LINDA KING

Vice President, North America Property Claims Sompo International

Linda King is the Vice President of North America Property Claims at Sompo International, where she leads a team managing shared and layered commercial property claims. With nearly two decades of experience in claims handling, Linda has managed complex losses exceeding \$100M across various sectors, including Real Estate and Hospitality. Beginning her career in Auto and Bodily Injury claims, Linda transitioned to property, gaining expertise in residential, commercial, catastrophe, flood, manufacturing, and inland marine claims. She is passionate about mentoring the next generation of claims professionals and fostering resilient teams. Linda holds a Bachelor's in Anthropology from The University of Memphis, was recognized as Hampton Road's Top 40 under 40 and is a current member of the Federation of Defense & Corporate Counsel.



MIKE MCCOLLEY

Vice President of Insurance Operations Forge Insurance

Strategic and results-driven insurance executive with over two decades of leadership experience across claims, underwriting, and operations. Currently serving as Vice President of Insurance Operations at Forge Insurance, overseeing claims, underwriting, service, and HR functions. Proven track record in driving operational excellence, regulatory compliance, risk management, and customer experience initiatives. Expert in building best practices, leading technology transformation, and creating data-driven models to support underwriting and product development. Prior leadership roles at Nationwide included oversight of multi-state claims operations, litigation management, and national quality assurance. Renowned for driving measurable outcomes, including TCR and litigation reductions, while fostering high-performance teams and innovation in insurance operations.



DARRYL MERRIMAN

Claims Manager IV

Zurich American Insurance Company

Darryl Merriman is a seasoned Claims Manager IV at Zurich American Insurance Company, bringing nearly four decades of insurance industry experience since beginning his career in 1987. At Zurich since 2002, Darryl specializes in complex claims involving premises liability, products liability, and construction. Known for his strategic and detail-oriented approach, he manages technically challenging assignments requiring extensive coordination and thorough investigation across all aspects of a claim. He holds a BA in Economics from Rutgers University and is licensed in multiple states, handling claims throughout the Northeast, Midwest, and parts of the South, including select national accounts.



DERRICK G. MULLEN

Vice President, Litigation Manager and Director of Casualty Claims

Seneca Insurance Company, Inc.

Derrick Mullen is a Vice President, Litigation Manager and Director of Casualty Claims with the responsibility for managing and handling complex and high exposure litigated claims involving major coverage issues, coordinating mediation days, managing a plaintiff doctors spreadsheet as well as managing defense and coverage law firms at Seneca Insurance Company, Inc. Derrick received his B.S. at Gardner Webb University. In his current role, Derrick specializes in commercial general liability insurance claims, as well as first party property litigation. Derrick's success in this area is supported by excellent negotiation and communication skills, high claim technical ability, leadership, organizational skills combined with a special interest in coverage, habitability, products defect as well as construction defect claims. Derrick is currently a faculty member of CLM Claims College. Derrick is an active member of NAAIA, JINLAW and SERMA as well as a Fellow of the CLM.



RODNEY PATTERSON

Vice President and Director of Property Claims

Seneca Insurance Company

Rod is a results-driven industry executive who is passionate about leadership and has an insatiable appetite for progress. He develops team members and mentees into self-managed, self-motivated, and highly productive professionals. As Vice President and Director of Property Claims at Seneca Insurance Company, a subsidiary of Crum & Forster, he leads the property claims department. Rod is not only a founding member of Crum & Forster's Inclusivity Council but also one of the architects of the Advocates for Black Equity (ABES), the Black and African American Employee Resource Group. He currently serves as an Executive Sponsor for the Leaders Engaging and Advancing Professionals Employee Resource Group. Rod is a sought-after speaker who regularly presents on various topics, including insurance, leadership, and diversity, equity, and inclusion (DEI), at industry-related events. Rod and Katrina Patterson have shared 33 wonderful years of marriage and are proud parents to their two adult children, Ericka and Shane.



CARYN SIEBERT

VP and Director of Carrier Engagement

Gallagher Bassett

Caryn Siebert serves as VP and Director of Carrier Engagement at Gallagher Bassett focused on business development and strategic initiatives. Ms. Siebert has more than 30 years of claims, legal, risk management and process improvement expertise. In 2024, Caryn was inducted into the Insurance Business America Hall of Fame. She has been Chief Executive Officer, Chief Claims Officer and General Counsel to TPAs, carriers and self-insureds. Ms. Siebert has her JD and has her designations as a Certified Legacy Professional (CLP) from AIRROC and Advanced Claims Professional (ACP) from The Institutes. Based in Orange County, CA, Ms. Siebert has responsibility for strategic initiatives and business development in the national P&C carrier marketplace as well as public entity / risk management. Caryn continues her active role in industry-facing events, organizations, mentoring/coaching, and presentations.



MARC SMATLAK

Claims Director – Northeast Region ProAssurance Companies

Marc Smatlak is a Claims Director in the Northeast Region of ProAssurance, a national professional liability insurer. He oversees a team of claims professionals, who coordinate the defense of physicians and healthcare providers in medical malpractice litigation. In addition, Marc has taken a leading role in expanding the company's claims operation into New York and New England. This role has included selecting new defense panel attorneys and adapting ProAssurance' aggressive defense philosophy to regional differences. Marc joined ProAssurance in December 2012. He is a graduate of the University of Virginia and George Mason University School of Law; and is a member of both the Bars of Virginia and the District of Columbia. Outside of work, Marc can be found biking, snowboarding or enjoying most any other outdoor activity, when not chasing around his toddler son.



JOHN SOUTHERLAND

Claims Manager Pilot Travel Centers

John Southerland is the Claims Manager at Pilot Company, where he leads a team of 10 adjusters who self-administer more than 8,000 general liability and auto liability claims annually. In addition to overseeing high-volume claims, his team actively manages over 80 new litigated matters each year across more than 40 U.S. states and several Canadian provinces. John has been with Pilot Company for 10 years and serves as an administrator for the company's Risk Management Information System (RMIS), Origami, which was implemented in 2021 as the primary platform for managing claims. He graduated cum laude from the University of Tennessee in 2007. Outside of work, John enjoys cheering on his three children as they participate in a variety of sports. He has been married for 16 years to his wife, Emily, who is also a University of Tennessee alumna.



TIMOTHY F. SULLIVAN

President & CEO and Chief Claims Officer

Recreation Risk Retention Group

Tim Sullivan has worked in the insurance claims field for about 40 years. For the past 30+ years, Tim has focused on Professional Liability claims involving lawyers, accountants, public officials, real estate agents, insurance company D&O and E&O, insurance agent E&O, and free flight instructor EO. Tim is the President & CEO, and Chief Claims Officer, of Recreation Risk Retention Group. Tim graduated from Indiana University School of Liberal Arts with a BA in Political Science. He received the designation of RPLU from the Professional Liability Underwriting Society in 1998. Tim is a member of the Defense Research Institute, the International Association of Defense Counsel, and a former director and Board Chair of the National Risk Retention Association. Tim has been a frequent speaker at insurance association events on a variety of topics relating to claim avoidance for insurance companies and insurance agents, D&O liability, and corporate management issues.

ROBERT A. VOZZA

Director of Risk Management Forest River

Robert A. Vozza, Esq., is the Director of Risk Management at Forest River, Inc., where he oversees internal and external claims management, including product liability, general liability, commercial auto, and workers compensation litigation. A licensed attorney with a JD from the University of Detroit Mercy and a BA from the University of Michigan, Robert brings decades of experience in risk mitigation, legal analysis, and insurance strategy. Prior to joining Forest River in 2024, he spent over a decade as a Risk Management Consultant with HUB International, advising clients in the commercial real estate, banking, construction, and manufacturing sectors. His analytical and results-driven approach has made him a trusted leader in enterprise risk management.

