

IAIABC 2026 Judicial Program

Wednesday, June 3rd and Thursday, June 4th

Thank you to Ametros for sponsoring this year's IAIABC Judicial Program.

Wednesday, June 3 rd	
Time in CDT	Session
10:30 AM - 11:30 AM	<p>Expect the Unexpected: Prepare for Non-Claim Related Issues</p> <p>As the judge, parties may look to you on how to respond in the case of a medical emergency, mental health crisis, security threat, or other critical moments. It is important to be prepared when the unexpected happens. Panelists will discuss ways to recognize critical moments, respond professionally, and keep everyone safe.</p> <p>Panelists: Knowrasa Patrick, Marc Grodsky, Amy Young, and Suzette Carlisle-Flowers</p>
11:30 AM - 11:45 AM	Break
11:45 AM - 12:45 PM	<p>AI in the Courtroom: What Judges Need to Know</p> <p>Artificial intelligence is rapidly reshaping legal practice, and courts are already feeling the impact. Join a distinguished panel as they provide a clear, practical look at how AI is reshaping litigation. Through real examples and recent case developments, the panel will examine how to spot AI-generated pleadings, how courts are responding when attorneys misuse these tools, obstacles judges face when self-represented litigants rely on AI, and what emerging risks judges should be prepared to navigate. This session will serve as a timely and valuable opportunity to stay ahead of challenges rapidly transforming courtroom practice.</p> <p>Speakers: Dave Langham and Les Shute</p>
12:45 PM - 1:30 PM	Break
1:30 PM - 2:30 PM	<p>You Make the Call: Discovery Dilemmas for Dastards and Dawdlers</p> <p>An interactive and introspective discussion of discovery problems and pitfalls for attorneys and judges through video-recorded vignettes. Areas of emphasis include ruling on discovery motions,</p>

	<p>balancing the right to discovery with the need for a hearing, admissibility of evidence, and professionalism and civility.</p> <p>Panelists: Molly Lawyer, Shannon Bishop, Wes Marshall</p>
2:30 PM - 2:45 PM	Break
2:45 PM - 3:45 PM	<p>Appeals and Best Practices for Hearing Judges: A View from the Appellate Judges</p> <p>This session will provide trial judges a practical look at how their decisions are reviewed on appeal. Appellate judges will share what they commonly see in the record, what strengthens a decision, the importance of clarity by the words used, and what can create challenges on review. The session will focus on clear reasoning, well-supported findings, and developing a record that speaks for itself. Participants will walk away with straightforward guidance to help ensure their rulings hold up on appeal and support a fair, consistent decision-making process.</p> <p>Speakers: Robert Rapaport and Frank McKay</p>

Thursday, June 4th

Time in CDT	Session
10:30 AM – 11:00 AM	<p>Coffee & Connect Sponsored by Ametros</p> <p>Connect with attendees and speakers in a guided discussion from Ametros.</p>
11:00 AM – 12:00 PM	<p>Legal Writing with Clarity and Velocity</p> <p>After this session with Brian Watkins, Chief Legal Officer for the Washington State Board of Industrial Insurance Appeals, attendees will be able to apply practical tips for writing plain-language legal decisions and use the syllogism framework to craft clear, concise legal analyses in a high-volume environment.</p> <p>Speaker: Brian Watkins</p>
12:00 PM – 12:15 PM	Break
12:15 PM – 1:15 PM	<p>The Weird World of Comp</p> <p>Step into the wonderfully strange side of workers’ compensation as Virginia Commissioner Wesley Marshall presents his collection of unusual, surprising, and head-scratching cases from across the country. From bizarre fact patterns to pivotal decisions with big implications, attendees will have the chance to weigh in, spot key</p>

	<p>issues, and consider how different courts reached their conclusions, for better or for worse. Come ready to think critically, laugh a little, and explore the cases that remind us just how weird (and fascinating) the world of workers' compensation can be.</p> <p>Speaker: Wes Marshall</p>
1:15 PM – 1:30 PM	Break
1:30 PM - 2:30 PM	<p>Understanding Implicit Associations/Bias</p> <p>Implicit associations mark us as humans and live in each of us. This session takes a deeper look at these unconscious patterns by exploring four essential questions: What are implicit associations? Why do we construct them? How can we identify them in ourselves? And finally, what can we do about them?</p> <p>Speaker: Bob Himmel and Ed Wise</p>