



Sunday-May 31, 2026

7:30 AM – OPEN | Palm Springs Tram and Nature Hike

A group will Uber to the Palm Springs Tram for a hike or sightseeing.

<https://pstramway.com>

Please email denise.evans@staffmark.com to sign up

10:30 AM – 1:00 PM | Paint with Meaning Networking|

A one-of-a-kind experience centered on creativity, self-expression, and color.

Choose an item from a curated selection to paint and take home.

Did we also mention mimosas?

Please email denise.evans@staffmark.com for sign up and invoicing \$140.00 per person.

2:30 PM – 4:00 PM | State Association Meeting

4:30 PM – 6:30 PM | President's Reception

Heavy hors d'oeuvres and beverages

Dinner to follow on your own.



Monday-June 1, 2026

Grand Ballroom

7:30 AM – 9:30 AM | Breakfast

7:30 AM – 7:45 AM | President’s Welcome and Opening Remarks

**07:45 AM – 08:45 AM | Where the Rubber Meets the Road: Triaging Workers’
Compensation Claims**

Sandra McDaniel - Associate Director, Workers’ Compensation - NC & GA Division, Advocate Health

Courtney Kilgore - Manager, Workers' Compensation - IL & WI Division, Advocate Health

Tom Page - Partner, Hedrick Gardner

Jeff Kadis - Partner, Hedrick Gardner

8:45 AM – 09:45 AM | Managing Claims Liabilities Effectively

Mark Bennage - Vice President, Risk Management, Simmons Foods

Ken Ferrell - Vice President, EPIC Brokers and Consultants

09:45 AM – 10:00 AM | Break

**10:00 AM – 11:00 AM | Cost Cutting at What Cost? When Cost Cutting Affects Legal
Outcomes**

Amir Sharifi - Senior Manager Workplace Risk, Tesla

Jordan Hetherington - Workers’ Compensation Manager, Tesla

Roy Park - Managing Partner, Park | Guenthart

**11:00 AM – 12:00 PM | Workers’ Compensation as Enterprise Strategy: Connecting the
Dots Across Risk**

Shaun Jackson - Executive Director, Risk Management, Panda Restaurant Group Inc.

Justin Romine - Vice President, Marriott International

Mark Walls - Vice President, Safety National

Kimberly George - Vice President, Sedgwick



Monday-June 1, 2026

12:00 PM – 1:00 PM | Lunch

1:00 PM – 2:00 PM | From Compliance to Culture: A Holistic Blueprint to Workers' Compensation

Treesie Richins - Workers' Compensation Manager, Discount Tire
Angie Jung - RN, BSN, CRRN, CCM, ISYS Solutions Inc.

2:00 PM – 3:00 PM | Will Employer Negligence Erode Exclusive Remedy?

Roy Monge - Murrieta United School District
Dawn Watkins - Retired Chief Risk Officer, Los Angeles Unified School District
Eddy Canavan - Founder & Owner, Alta Claims & Insurance Services

**4:00 PM – 6:00 PM | Networking Event
Margarita and Guacamole Making Contest
Mariachi Band**

(All registered attendees are Welcome to attend.)

If you would like to compete as a team or individual (or we can put in a team) in the Margarita or Guacamole contest, please email denise.evans@staffmarkgroup.com only so many spots are available. There will be prizes for the best tasting Margarita and Guacamole. Contest is pending receipt of enough sponsors.

9:30 PM – 12:30 AM | Hospitality Suite

Dinner on your own tonight! ENJOY 😊



Tuesday-June 2, 2026

Grand Ballroom

7:30 AM – 9:30 AM | Breakfast

8:00 AM – 9:00 AM | Workplace Violence: What Really Happens?

Lev Pobirsky - Senior Director, Ashley Furniture

Negar Martian - Partner, Matian Law

**9:00 AM – 10:00 AM | Medicare Compliance in 2026: How the Landscape is Evolving
and What Employers Need to Know**

Katy Harp - Workers' Compensation Manager, Sierra Pacific Industries

Pamela Brann - ABCP, BCMM, AR, Vice President Risk Management, Cast & Crew, LLC

Jennifer Shymanski - Vice President, Implementation and Strategy, IMPAXX

**10:00 AM – 10:45 AM | Cutting Through the Clutter: Real-World Claims Differentiators for
Self-Insurers**

Yvonne Lavadores - Senior Manager, Workers Compensation, Disneyland Resort

Tyrone Spears - Chief of the Workers' Compensation Division, City of Los Angeles

Rachel Fikes - Chief Experience Officer & Director, WC Benchmarking Study, Rising Medical Solutions

10:45 AM – 11:00 AM | Break

**11:00 AM – 12:00 PM | Assemble Your Dream Team: Winning with an Unbundled
Strategy**

Steve Tinco - Casualty Claims Manager, United Road Services

Todd Beresford - Senior Counsel & Director of WC, The Cleveland Clinic

David Chmiel - Senior Vice President, HUB International

Wendy Lanphere - VP of National Accounts, CCMSI

Jim Anderson - Executive VP, Command Investigations

12:00 PM – 1:00 PM | Lunch

National Kids' Chance - NCSI Update & Annual Meeting



Tuesday-June 2, 2026

1:00 PM – 2:00 PM | Breakout Session 1

Injured Worker Engagement During Recovery and Rehabilitation as a Key to Successful Treatment Outcomes

Teresa Schebel - Averitt

Larisa Featherstone - Chief Executive Officer, Johnston and Associates

Robert Townsend - Head of Research and Education, Bardavon

1:00 PM – 2:00 PM | Breakout Session 2

Worlds Colliding: How the Liability Environment Is Impacting Workers' Compensation

Lauren McBride - Senior Director of Liability Claims, Publix Super Markets

Ron March-Attorney, Gannan & Shapiro

Max Koonce - Chief Claims Officer, Sedgwick

2:00 PM – 3:00 PM | Light Duty Return to Work Exposure in WC Claims

Ellen Sap - Workers' Compensation Manager, Garda World Security

Matt Gorski - Partner/Chair of WC, Amundsen Davis Law

3:00 PM – 3:45 PM | California Reform - What Changes Are Coming?

Pamela Brann - ABCP, BCMM, ARM - Vice President, Risk Management, Cast & Crew, LLC.

Tim Peterson - Attorney, Bober, Peterson & Koby, LLP.

Max Koonce - Chief Claims Officer, Sedgwick

5:30 PM – 6:30 PM | Farewell Reception

6:30 PM | Dinner

8:00 PM – 10:00 PM

Music by: Jill's Cashbox Acoustic

10:00 PM – 12:30 AM | Hospitality



Wednesday-June 3, 2026

8:30 AM – 10:30 AM | Breakfast

9:00 AM – 10:00 AM | How to Manage Catastrophic & High-Risk Claims with Behavioral Health at the Center

Ard Allison - Workers' Compensation Director, McLane Company, Inc.

Timothy Roberts, ARM-Claims Executive

Natasha Charleston - LCPC, CRC, CISM, EMDR, Director of Behavioral Health Services, Carisk Partners

10:00 AM – 10:30 AM | Break

10:30 AM – 11:30 AM | TBD

11:30 AM – 12:30 PM | State of the States: Self-Insurance Association Updates

Bill Rush - CO SI Association

Lloyd Hudson - OH SI Association

Kris Tefft - WA SI Association

Peter Strauss - MT SI Association

Alberto Rivera - AZ SI Association

Linda Savage - CA SI Association

