



California Coalition on
22ND **Workers' Compensation**
ANNUAL CONFERENCE
LEGISLATIVE & EDUCATIONAL FORUM

**THE STRATEGIC ADVOCATE:
MASTERING POLICY
CHANGE THROUGH
LEGISLATION,
PARTNERSHIPS, AND
NETWORKING**

Moderator: Sheri Lawrence

**Panelists: Caryn Siebert, Anthony
Culpepper, Sandy Avina**

July 7, 2026, 3:00pm

Today's conversation focuses on how risk professionals, employers, legal experts, and carrier leaders can move beyond compliance and become active participants in shaping a more effective and equitable workers' compensation system in California. We'll discuss legislative advocacy, access to care, communication barriers, and how collaboration across disciplines can strengthen outcomes for both organizations and injured workers.

Opening Question for Panel: Can you share an example where an unexpected partnership or industry relationship (personal to you) helped move an important workers' compensation issue forward?



PANEL DISCUSSION FOCUS

- What role do networking and industry relationships play in helping employers stay ahead of legislative or compliance changes?
- Are there examples where industry collaboration directly influenced more balanced or effective legislation?
- What advice would you give employers who want to become more involved in advocacy but don't know where to start?
- How do you encourage industry stakeholders to move from a reactive compliance mindset to a more proactive advocacy and engagement strategy?
- What do employers often miss in external legislative advocacy communications that affects internal workers' comp and risk compliance decisions?
- What legislative or regulatory developments in California should employers and risk professionals be paying the closest attention to right now?
- A Seat at the Table: In your experience, who is still missing from the table when workers' compensation policies are being discussed, and why does their perspective matter?
- How can the industry create more opportunities for diverse voices and underrepresented perspectives to influence policy discussions? How can these organizations help identify gaps in the workers' compensation system that might otherwise have gone unnoticed?



AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION

- What barriers prevent employers and risk professionals from participating more actively in legislative advocacy?
- How can employers and industry professionals better collaborate instead of operating in silos?



THE POWER BEHIND THE ACRONYMS

(AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION USING MENTI APP)

CCWC, AIC, NAIC, WCRB, WCI, SCIF, DWC, CSIA, PRISM, CAJPA,
PARMA, RIMS, LA RIMS, OC RIMS, WCRI, NCCI

AAWCP, HIRMA, NAAIA, BIIC, RAINBOW RISK, LINK,
LINC, AAIN



PANELISTS LIGHTNING ROUND QUESTIONS

- One word that describes the future of California workers' compensation?
- What is one action every risk professional should take within the next year?



ADVOCACY AND ENGAGEMENT: ACTIONS FOR INDUSTRY STAKEHOLDERS

Individual Actions

- Attend workers' compensation legislative hearings, webinars, or industry briefings.
- Subscribe to updates from California workers' compensation and employment law organizations.
- Build relationships with local legislators and policy advisors.
- Participate in advocacy days hosted by industry associations.
- Provide operational feedback during public comment opportunities.
- Stay informed on proposed bills affecting claims, return-to-work, medical access, and employer obligations.



ADVOCACY AND ENGAGEMENT: ACTIONS FOR INDUSTRY STAKEHOLDERS

Organizational Actions

- Designate an internal legislative or regulatory liaison.
- Create a process for monitoring regulatory and legal developments.
- Encourage leadership participation in industry coalitions.
- Partner with associations that advocate for balanced workers' compensation reform.
- Share employer data and operational insights that can support evidence-based policy discussions.



ADVOCACY AND ENGAGEMENT: ACTIONS FOR INDUSTRY STAKEHOLDERS

BECOME A MEMBER OF CCWC!!



THANK YOU FOR JOINING US!

Today's discussion reinforced that advocacy is not limited to legislators or attorneys belongs to all of us. Employers, carriers, risk professionals, and legal experts each bring a unique perspective that can help shape a workers' compensation system that is both operationally effective and responsive to the needs of injured workers. Stronger partnerships, broader representation, and more intentional engagement will be critical to the future of our industry.



ADVOCACY IN ACTION

