

Presenters

KEYNOTE SPEAKER



Tricia Downing

Motivational Speaker

On September 17, 2000, Tricia Downing went from being a competitive cyclist to a paraplegic requiring a wheelchair for mobility. Her life was changed forever, but Tricia's competitive spirit and zest for life continued on. Making the transition from able-bodied cyclist to an athlete with a disability, Tricia has completed over 100 races, including marathons and triathlons, since her accident. She was the first female paraplegic to complete an Ironman triathlon and qualified for the Hawaii Ironman World Championship twice. Additionally, she was a member of Team USA at the 2016 Paralympic Games in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil.

Tricia's professional life has been immersed in sports as she earned a master's degree in Sport Management in 1995 and worked at the U.S. Olympic Training Center. She was the press officer for the USA Table Tennis team at the 1996 Olympic Games.

Receiving many sports accolades, including the USA Triathlon Physically Challenged Athlete of the Year (2003), Sportswomen of Colorado—Inspiration ('03), Triathlon (05), Hall of Fame ('12) Awards, the 2006 Most Inspirational Athlete from the Challenged Athletes Foundation and the 2008 Courage Award from the Tempe Sports Authority, Tricia has truly excelled despite her life-altering injury.

In addition to her sports pursuits, Tricia completed a master's degree in Disability Studies. She is the Executive Director for The Cycle of Hope, a non-profit organization dedicated to serving female wheelchair users, helping them build confidence and create support systems through fitness activities.

Tricia published her memoir: *Cycle of Hope—A Journey from Paralysis to Possibility* in June, 2010, with the second edition released in January 2017.

Presenters



Charlie Larson

Attorney – Boyce Law Firm L.L.P.

Charlie Larson is recognized as one of the leading South Dakota attorneys in the field of workers' compensation law. Throughout his years with Boyce Law Firm, he has represented dozens of insurers and hundreds of employers in all levels of the court system. Charlie is passionate about the clients he represents. He prides himself on understanding the client and their expectations and works hard every day to exceed those expectations.



Laura Hensley

Attorney – Boyce Law Firm L.L.P.

Laura Hensley is an experienced litigator in a variety of practice industries, including workers' compensation, insurance defense, and employment law matters. She represents employers and insurers in all stages of workers' compensation and employment matters, and regularly counsels clients prior to litigation. Laura also has experience in managing and defending bad faith claims, and enjoys using that knowledge to assist and benefit her clients. In her litigation practice, Laura believes in a focused and strategic approach, and uses that approach to benefit her clients through all phases of a contested matter, including settlement and trial.



Joel H. Blanchard, MD FACEP

Medical Director - Occupational Medicine, Sanford Health Occupational Medicine Clinic

Dr. Joel Blanchard is the Enterprise Medical Director of Sanford Health Occupational Medicine Clinic in Aberdeen SD, Bemidji, MN, Bismarck, Dickinson, East Grand Forks, Fargo, Minot, ND and Sioux Falls SD. As medical director; he oversees the medical care, policies and procedures of the clinics.

Dr. Blanchard is a board-certified family medicine doctor at Sanford Health. He completed his Medical degree at the University of Saskatchewan in Saskatoon, and his internship at St. Paul's Hospital in Saskatoon. Dr. Blanchard is also a fellow of the American College of Emergency Physicians.

He is certified as a medical review officer for drug testing and is a member of the American College of Occupational and Environmental Medicine.



Mark Pew, Senior Vice President

Prium

Mark Pew, Senior Vice President of PRIUM, is a passionate educator and agitator. He has been focused since 2003 on the intersection of chronic pain and appropriate treatment. That ranges from the clinical and financial costs of opioids and benzodiazepines to the corresponding epidemic of heroin use and the evolution in medical cannabis. Recipient of the 2016 Magna Comp Laude award and named one of the "Best Blogs of 2016", he is relevant and respected.



Chuck McCullough PT, CEES, CHT

Avera Medical Group – Brookings

Chuck is a 1992 graduate from the University of North Dakota. He is the director of physical therapy at the Avera Medical Group Brookings Physical Therapy Department.

In 2003 Chuck has earned his Certified Hand Therapist (CHT) credential through the Hand Therapy Certification Commission and his Certified Ergonomic Evaluation Specialist credentials through the Roy Matheson. Chuck has used both of these credentials over the past 14 years to provide ergonomic evaluations and on-site consultations for various industries.



Kip Kludt PT

Avera Medical Group – Brookings

Kip graduated with a bachelor's degree in Athletic Training from South Dakota State University. He then Graduated from University of South Dakota in 1995 with a master's degree in Physical Therapy. Kip is specifically trained in workman's comp issues and has extensive experience in on-site industrial medicine for companies such as 3M and Bel Brands.



Justin G. Smith

Attorney / Shareholder – Woods Fuller Shultz & Smith P.C.

Justin Smith is a shareholder with the law firm Woods, Fuller, Shultz & Smith, having joined the firm in 2006. During his eleven years of practice, Justin has specialized in workers' compensation, government relations, and business law. Justin represents employers and insurers on workers' compensation, insurance, and other regulatory matters. In the area of business law, Justin focuses on contracts, mergers and acquisitions, and real estate transactions. Justin serves clients as a lobbyist during each South Dakota legislative session. Justin and his wife Molly have four children and live in Sioux Falls.



Erin Williams

Senior Claims Consultant – Howalt+McDowell Insurance, a Marsh & McLennan Agency

Erin Williams is a Senior Risk Specialist in the Property & Casualty division of Howalt+McDowell Insurance. She has over ten years of prior experience handling workers' compensation claims in multiple jurisdictions with two monoline workers' compensation carriers. In her current role, she works with large accounts analyzing claims data to facilitate risk management activities. Her prior experience with claims handling enhances her ability to assist clients and their carrier partners with claims advocacy and problem-resolution.



Brad Rehfeldt

Sales Executive – Howalt+McDowell Insurance, a Marsh & McLennan Agency

Brad received a bachelor's degree in Finance from the University of South Dakota and a Master of Business Administration from the University of Sioux Falls. Prior to joining our team he spent several years in business to business and business to consumer sales. His experience has given him broad exposure to developing businesses within the state of South Dakota. In addition to business development, Brad is also experienced in financial analysis, contract negotiation and strategic planning. With his skill set and knowledge of the industry he is able to bring a unique approach to designing insurance programs for all types of property and liability risk.



Lavonya Chapman, Esq, RN, CMSP - Medicare Secondary Payer Compliance Counsel Settlement Solutions

Optum Settlement Solutions

Attorney, Claim Director, and Registered Nurse with over 25 years experience handling all types of commercial claims to include workers compensation, auto med pay, auto liability, general liability, premises liability, bodily injury, professional liability claims and lawsuits which involved Medicare eligible claimants and Medicare beneficiaries.

Professional Experience includes: Claim Compliance Director, Arthur J Gallagher & Co.; Medicare Fraud & Abuse Subcontractor, Kelley & Associates; Claim Director, Arthur J Gallagher & Co.; Attorney, Gaines, Wolter & Kinney and McFerrin & Assocs.; Workers Compensation Medical Case Manager, USF&G Ins.; Utilization Reviewer, Alabama Hospital Association; and Pharmacology Instructor, University of Alabama at Birmingham

Education, Licensure & Certifications: Certified Medicare Secondary Payer Professional (CMSP); Samford University, Bachelor of Science in Nursing - Magna cum laude, Sigma Theta Tau, Phi Kappa Phi; Birmingham School of Law, Doctor of Jurisprudence -Sigma Delta Kappa; Licensed RN- Alabama State Board of Nursing; Member of the Alabama State Bar; Adjuster Licenses in Alabama, Florida, Arkansas, Missouri; Member of the National Alliance of Medicare Set-Aside Professionals (NAMSAP), Defense Research Institute (DRI) and several relevant committees and associations.



Rick W. Orr

Attorney – Davenport, Evans, Hurwitz & Smith, LLP

Rick Orr is a South Dakota litigation attorney at Davenport Evans. Rick has handled a wide variety of civil litigation, as reflected by his membership in the **American Board of Trial Advocates**. In recent years, though, his practice has focused more and more on workers' compensation, including acting as a mediator in workers' compensation and personal injury cases. There, too, he is recognized both within the firm and by his peers as one of the leaders. In addition to numerous reported appellate decisions that determine rights and obligations in that field, Rick has served on and headed the State Bar's workers' compensation committee.

Rick is a Fellow of The College of Workers' Compensation Lawyers. He has received an **AV Preeminent**® Peer Review Rating by **Martindale-Hubbell**®, for the highest level of professional excellence for legal knowledge, communication skills and ethical standards. He was also selected by **Best Lawyers**® in the area of Workers' Compensation Law- Employers, ranked by **Chambers and Partners** in the area of Labor & Employment: Workers' Compensation Law, and ranked in the top 5% of practicing attorneys in South Dakota by **Great Plains Super Lawyers** in the areas of Workers' Compensation and Personal Injury Defense: General.



Jeff G. Shultz

Attorney / Shareholder – Woods, Fuller, Shultz & Smith P.C.

Jeff Shultz joined the firm in 1983, and has focused his practice on personal injury litigation. Individual clients, self-insured employers and insurers seek his advice on complex matters including workers' compensation, ERISA litigation, and subrogations. Disability claims are a substantial part of Jeff's practice, whether the benefits are from an employer or an insurer. He has tried multiple cases to verdict and handled numerous administrative hearings, court trials and appeals.

Jeff received recognition in "Best Lawyers in America," "Chambers U.S.A's America's Leading Lawyers", and was previously named "Best Lawyer's Sioux Falls Workers' Compensation Law Lawyer of the Year." He serves on the State Bar of South Dakota Committee on Administrative Law and is a long-time board member of East River Legal Services. Jeff currently serves as the Chair of the firm's Personal Injury and Litigation practice groups.

Jeff spends his free time with his wife and two grown children, occasionally trying his luck at fishing, tennis and golf.

Jeff is AV Peer Review Rated by Martindale-Hubbell



Morgan F. Brekke

Attorney / Associate – Woods, Fuller, Shultz & Smith P.C.

Morgan is a Sioux Falls native who joined Woods Fuller in 2014. She focuses primarily on civil litigation matters.

Prior to joining the firm, Morgan clerked for Chief Justice David E. Gilbertson of the South Dakota Supreme Court and the Honorable Roger L. Wollman of the United States Court of Appeals for the Eighth Circuit. Morgan graduated with Sterling Honors from the University of South Dakota School of Law, where she served as president of the Moot Court Board, was a graduate assistant, and participated in Trial Team.