

# AWCP

Association of Workers'  
Compensation Professionals

## CHECKMATE: AN AWCP VIRTUAL LEGAL MINI CONFERENCE "RAISING THE BAR. . .ETHICS AND COMPLIANCE CONFERENCE!"

Friday, JANUARY 14, 2022

9:00 A.M. ~ 3:30 P.M.

CONFERENCE CO-CHAIRS:  
Tiffany D. CORONA, Esq.  
Kelly M. Hull, Esq.

### ATTORNEYS:

\$115 MEMBERS/\$175 NON MEMBERS

### LEGAL ETHICS:

4 HOURS (REQUIRED)

### COMPETENCE ISSUES:

1 HOUR (REQUIRED)

### RECOGNITION AND ELIMINATION OF BIAS IN THE LEGAL PROFESSION AND SOCIETY:

1 HOUR (REQUIRED)

SIX HOURS OF CE FOR CLAIMS EXAMINERS,  
NURSES AND CERTIFIED CASE MANAGERS

\$40 MEMBERS/\$60 NON MEMBERS

SPEAKERS, LECTURE TOPICS AND REGISTRATION FORM FOLLOW!  
REGISTER TODAY! YOU WON'T WANT TO MISS THIS CONFERENCE!

## EDUCATION CATEGORIES



### Attorneys

- ) **Legal Ethics: 4 hours** (required)
- ) **Competence Issues** (formerly known as Prevention, Detection and Treatment of Substance Abuse or Mental Illness):  
**1 hour** (required)
- ) **Recognition and Elimination of Bias in the Legal Profession and Society:**  
**1 hour** (required)

**Six hours of CE for Claims Examiners, Nurses and Certified Case Managers**

## SPEAKERS AND TOPICS

**"SUBSTANCE USE AND ABUSE!"**

Officer Robert Smith, California Highway Patrol

**"ELIMINATING BIAS IN THE WORKPLACE: DE&I & YOU!"**

Erin Wintersteen, Esq. & Angel Casarez, Esq., Wintersteen|Casarez

Joelle Jouvett Hicks, Director of Risk Management & Compliance, SF Giants

**"YOU BE THE JUDGE!"**

The Honorable W. Kearse McGill, California State Bar Court

**"ETHICS & GOOD-FAITH CLAIMS HANDLING!"**

Michael J. Costello, Esq., Testan Law

**"HOW TO NAVIGATE VIRTUAL WCAB APPEARANCES!"**

Sumit Raghuvanshi, Esq., Albert & Mackenzie

*"In a civilized life,  
law floats in a sea of ethics."  
~ Earl Warren*



# ANGEL CASAREZ, ESQ.



Angel Casarez is a founding partner of Wintersteen | Casarez. She has practiced in the field of Workers' Compensation for almost 18 years. Ms. Casarez has extensive experience in representing insurance carriers, self-insured employers and public entities in all aspects of workers' compensation defense. Ms. Casarez speaks Spanish fluently.

Prior to Wintersteen | Casarez, Ms. Casarez served as workers' compensation managing attorney for a nationally recognized corporation- Foster Farms- where she supervised the work of outside counsel in multiple jurisdictions.

Prior to Foster Farms, Ms. Casarez was a Managing Partner with Testan Law in Oakland. She oversaw the work of five attorneys and managed all staff members. She was the account manager for several national clients and oversaw the work of multiple Testan Law offices for those clients. In addition, Ms. Casarez handled a full case load representing clients in all aspects of defending a workers' compensation case.

Ms. Casarez received her Juris Doctor degree from New College of California, a Public Interest law school in San Francisco. She received her undergraduate degree from San Francisco State University in La Raza Studies with a minor in Dance.

Ms. Casarez most recently served on the Legal Committee for the California Workers' Compensation Institute. In that capacity, she assisted in reviewing significant decisions with the potential to impact the industry, to determine where CWCI should participate in filing amicus briefs. She was nominated for the 2020 and 2021 Comp Laude award for Best Defense Attorney.

In addition to a strong passion for building this firm, Angel is an avid reader and used the months in quarantine to build and establish a "Free Little Library" at her house. She is the librarian for charter number 98374. Angel loves the Oakland A's and San Francisco 49ers. Along with attending home games for both teams, Angel has been chasing ballparks for years and has attended games in 18 ballparks in the US and Mexico.

Angel and her husband, Julian, are avid travelers having acquired 24 country passport stamps. Angel adores her cat, Peppercorn Alain Casarez, who was named after her favorite French chef.



# MICHAEL J. COSTELLO, ESQ.



Michael Costello is the firm's General Counsel and Managing Partner of Continuing Education and he is located in the Testan Law Santa Ana office.

He has practiced in the field of workers' compensation for 20 years, serving as counsel for employers, insurance carriers, adjusting agencies and state organizations. Additionally, Mr. Costello provides training as well as review and analysis of business and workers' compensation operations for the business community.

Mr. Costello gained vital experience and knowledge of business operations as a retail manager at a major drug store chain as well as a major office supply chain. He is

skilled in management, human resource, public speaking, budgeting and marketing through 12 plus years in retail, travel and production management.

Mr. Costello continues to provide training and education to the business and insurance communities with past presentations to top Corporations and Insurance Companies.

In the March/April 2013 Risk Management Magazine, he authored an article concerning recent California legislation and continues to educate the risk management community on the changes.

As a former Vice President of the Professionals in Workers Compensation, Southern California Chapter, member of the Orange County Bar Association and as District Chair and Community Chair positions for the Boy Scouts of America, Mr. Costello continues to dedicate his time and energy to the local community.



A Professional Corporation



# Joelle Jevet Hic

Joelle is originally from San Diego who quickly made the San Francisco Bay Area home when she relocated to pursue her education at the University of California, Berkeley. She graduated at the height of the recession with a degree in sociology, she found herself landing in the insurance industry as a claims trainee with Berkley.

After six years of claims and risk management, she moved into the environmental health and safety world, where she worked from 2012 to 2017. During her time at Uber, Joelle built the Environmental Health Safety, and risk management programs which helped keep the company's employees safe while at work, managed the compensation program and led the company's EHS and GRC initiatives. Additionally, she led the

return employees to their offices in the midst of the health crisis in California and the company.

As of the summer of 2021, Joelle ended her journey in San Francisco and joined the SF Giants as their Director of Risk Management and Compliance. She is currently completing her Executive MBA through a joint program at IE Business School and San Francisco State University which has a strong emphasis on community and business. As part of the program, she will be partnering with local business owners in the township of Cape Town, South Africa this month as a consultant to help develop business ventures that bring technical skills to the area.

Between a full course load and acclimating to life with the SF Giants, she is also looking forward to graduation in May 2022 so that she may resume her time with family, perfecting her craft of baking for academic purposes, and working on community development initiatives in her current town of Vallejo, CA.



# JUDGE W. KEARSE MCGILL



Judge W. Kearsse McGill is a judge for the California State Bar Court, which is the nation's only trial and appellate court system dedicated solely to adjudicating attorney discipline cases. He was appointed as a review judge by the California Supreme Court on November 1, 2016, after previously serving eighteen months as a hearing judge for the court. In addition to his work as a review judge, he is currently serving as the Acting Presiding Judge since November 12, 2021.

Judge McGill's earlier legal career includes work as legal counsel to a California state senator. After ten years of private practice, Judge McGill was appointed as a workers' compensation judge to the Workers' Compensation Appeals Board Stockton District Office on May 2, 2005. On July 1, 2013, he was appointed to the position of Presiding Judge of the Stockton District Office and served in that position until his appointment to the State Bar Court.

Additionally, the California State Bar Board of Trustees appointed Judge McGill to the State Bar's Standing Committee on Professional Responsibility and Conduct in 2013, on which he served until his appointment to the State Bar Court. He also taught for several years as an adjunct professor of law, and he has presented numerous seminars to local, state, and national attorney and judicial organizations, primarily in the subject area of professional responsibility and legal ethics.



# SUMIT RAGHUVANSHI, ESQ.



Sumit Raghuvanshi is the Managing Attorney in the Orange County office. He believes in an aggressive approach to moving files forward. Sumit's open and consistent communication style enables him to obtain great settlement results.

Sumit's overall experience, detailed understanding of the law, and innovative approach to case handling has led him to acquire several Take Nothings and shift doctors' opinions for cross examinations.

Sumit also excels at educating employers about workers' compensation. Prior to joining Albert and Mackenzie, his practice concentrated on the defense of workers' compensation cases and civil litigation to include the defense of 132a and Serious and Willful claims.

Sumit grew up in Orange County, California. His hobbies include reading, watching television, and going to the gym. An ideal weekend for him consists of staying home on a rainy day. Sumit lives by the words, "Just keeping pushing on."

One thing Sumit absolutely cannot live without is tea. His favorite cuisine is Thai and Indian, and his favorite Netflix show is Manifest. Sumit enjoys listening to rock and pop music.

Three words to describe Sumit are calm, independent, and thoughtful. Traveling across the world is number one on Sumit's bucket list. He has two pets: a Huskie Mix named Emmylou and a Silverlab named Emmylou.



# CHP Officer Robert Smith

Robert Smith was born at Marine Corps Base Camp Pendleton and grew up all over the state of California. Robert served in the United States Marine Corps with one tour in Iraq during Operation Iraqi Freedom.

Robert joined the California Highway Patrol in 2003 and was first assigned to the Ventura area office where he began showing an interest in Drug and Alcohol abuse. During Robert's career he has served at the Ventura office, San Diego office, Ventura County Auto Theft Task Force, Office of Capitol Protection, Academy, Valley Division Special Enforcement Unit, Placerville office and is currently assigned to the California Highway Patrol Impaired Driving Section. Robert's current duties have him teaching DUI and drug programs throughout the state of California.

Robert is a Drug Recognition Expert or DRE for short, a DRE Instructor, a Standardized Field Sobriety Testing Instructor, a certified Academy Instructor and a member of the California Narcotic Officer's Association.

Robert has trained and/or certified around 1000 officers from California, other states and countries to be Drug Recognition Experts and hundreds of other officers in various drug and alcohol courses. He continues to teach Advanced Roadside Impaired Driver Enforcement, Standardized Field Sobriety Testing, Drug Recognition Expert School, and initial academy training in drug and alcohol influence.

Robert is a guest speaker for DUI Court in Schools and has spoken to thousands of high school students about alcohol and drug abuse. He has also taught for the California District Attorney's Association. In his career, Robert has personally taken over 700 drivers off the streets for driving under the influence offenses.

Robert is happily married and has three boys and two girls. Robert is an avid ice hockey player and has played in many police/fire charity games for various causes. He has volunteered much of his spare time in the community and often uses his position as a drug expert and trainer for homeless outreach and has partnered with the Sacramento County Chaplains Office. Robert continues to pursue drug and alcohol educational opportunities through continuing education.





# ERIN WINTERSTEEN, ESQ.



Erin Wintersteen is a founding partner of Wintersteen | Casarez. She has practiced in the field of Workers' Compensation for over 15 years as a defense attorney. She is a Bar-Certified Specialist in Workers' Compensation Law.

Previously, she opened and managed the Sacramento branch of Michael Sullivan & Associates. She oversaw the work of five attorneys and managed all staff members. She also handled a full caseload, representing insurance carriers, self-insured employers and public entities in all aspects of workers' compensation, Labor Code Section 132(a) and Serious & Willful cases.

Before joining Michael Sullivan & Associates, Ms. Wintersteen was Partner and Chief Marketing Officer with Testan Law in Sacramento, where she was responsible for client relations for the firm's Northern California region. She also carried a full caseload.

Ms. Wintersteen received her Juris Doctor degree cum laude from the University of the Pacific McGeorge School of Law in Sacramento, where she was on the Dean's List, and was a member of the Traynor Honor Society and the American Constitution Society. She was a Witkin Award winner, and was on the McGeorge Law Review staff. Ms. Wintersteen received her undergraduate degree in Psychology from the University of California, Davis, where she was on the Dean's List.

Ms. Wintersteen is a member of the Executive Committee of the Workers' Compensation Section, California Lawyers Association (CLA), serving as Chairwoman of the Awards subcommittee. She is also a member of the Women of Workers' Compensation (WOW). Formerly, she served as a board member and president of the Valley Industrial Claims Association (VICA), which provides continuing education opportunities for the Sacramento workers' compensation community. She is still an active member of VICA as well as the Association of Workers' Compensation Professionals (AWCP). Ms. Wintersteen was featured in Sacramento Magazine in 2017 and 2018 as one of the city's top workers' compensation attorneys. She was nominated for the 2020 and 2021 Comp Laude award for Best Defense Attorney.

Recently, Ms. Wintersteen created an online support group for parents of children with special education needs in the West Sacramento community. She enjoys hanging out with her two sons, Jack and Connor, who keep her on her toes.



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# YES, I WANT TO ATTEND THE AWCP JANUARY 14, 2022 VIRTUAL LEGAL MINI CONFERENCE

Attorney Members: \$110  
Claims/Other Members: \$40

Attorney Non-Members: \$175  
Claims/Other Non-Members: \$60

Attorney Registration includes both MCLE and Legal Specialization Credits

## REGISTRATION & PAYMENT

Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
(Please print)

AWCP Member: Yes No

Company: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone No. \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Email Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City, State, Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Check Enclosed: Yes No

Amount: \_\_\_\_\_

Credit Card Payment: Visa M/C AMEX Discover Charge Amount: \_\_\_\_\_ \*\*

\*\*As of 08/01/19, a 3% credit card processing fee will be added to the charge amount.

Name (as it appears on credit card): \_\_\_\_\_

Credit Card Number: \_\_\_\_\_

Expires: \_\_\_\_\_ Security Code: \_\_\_\_\_ Billing Zip Code Number: \_\_\_\_\_

*Mail, Email or Fax this form with payment to:*

**AWCP**

PO Box 760 ~ Rancho Cordova, CA 95741-0760

Phone: 916.290.8017 ~ Fax: 916.914.1706 ~ [www.awcp.org](http://www.awcp.org)

For more information, please call or email Connie at [Connie@awcp.org](mailto:Connie@awcp.org)

Cancellation Policy: No refunds can be accepted after 01/12/22

DEDICATED TO EDUCATION, NETWORKING & PHILANTHROPY