



Workers'
Compensation
Board

2026 WORKERS' COMPENSATION CONFERENCE

COMMEMORATING THE 25TH ANNIVERSARY OF 9/11

OCTOBER 16 — ALBANY, NY

EMPIRE STATE PLAZA CONVENTION CENTER

WELCOME

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Sponsors

Welcome to the 2026 NYS Workers' Compensation Board's Conference!

We are thrilled to have you join us for a full day of in-person learning and engagement about the policies and practices that shape the New York State workers' compensation system. In commemoration of the 25th anniversary of September 11, 2001, the Board is honored to host a special panel comprising medical and legal professionals and advocates who have helped shape the industry's response to 9/11 — work that continues to this day. We look forward to connecting with you as we work together to support and serve the people of New York State.



Freida D. Foster

*Chair,
NYS Workers' Compensation Board*



Steven M. Scotti

*Executive Director,
NYS Workers' Compensation Board*

For full session descriptions, information about CME/CLE continuing education credits, and our photo release, visit wcb.ny.gov/2026conference

CONFERENCE SCHEDULE

EXHIBITOR CHECK IN	7:30 a.m.
PANELIST/PRESENTER CHECK IN	8:00 a.m.
REGISTRANT CHECK IN	8:15 a.m. – 8:45 a.m.

Morning Sessions	9:00 a.m. – 10:45 a.m.	ROOM
Welcome Remarks		6
Panel: 9/11 & Workers' Comp – A Quarter Century of Lessons and Experiences		6
A Legacy of Resilience, a Drive for Excellence		6
Morning Breakouts	11:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.	ROOM
Your Voice Matters: A Town Hall with Our Advocates		3
Navigating Comp: Medical Director's Office Updates (CME credits available)		4
OnBoard Modernization Update		2
Legislative and Regulatory Updates (CLE credits available)		6
FRANCES PERKINS AWARD LUNCHEON	12:15 p.m. – 1:30 p.m.	6
Honoring Dr. Jacqueline Moline, for serving with distinction, embodying the Frances Perkins spirit, and making a positive impact on the workers' compensation system. Lunch will be provided.		
Afternoon Breakouts #1	1:45 p.m. – 2:45 p.m.	ROOM
Support Services for the Injured Worker		3
Provider Compliance and Discipline (CME credits available)		4
Compliance – Penalties and Judgments (CLE credits available)		6
Afternoon Breakouts #2	3:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m.	ROOM
Fighting Fraud in the NYS Workers' Compensation System		3
Best Practices & Support from the Medical Director's Office (CME credits available)		4
Claims Best Practices (CLE credits available)		6

FRANCES PERKINS AWARD

Presented to an individual or organization serving with distinction, embodying the spirit of Frances Perkins, and making a significant, positive impact on the New York State workers' compensation system.

CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR RECIPIENT,

JACQUELINE MOLINE, M.D., M.SC.

Jacqueline M. Moline, M.D., M.Sc. is an occupational medicine specialist and Professor of Occupational Medicine, Epidemiology and Prevention and Internal Medicine at the Zucker School of Medicine at Hofstra/Northwell.

Dr. Moline has had a distinguished career dedicated to the prevention of workplace injuries and illnesses, as well as helping injured workers recover from and maximize their health and function after experiencing such life-changing events. She has also had an extraordinary impact on the 9/11 community. Her work and tireless advocacy has helped thousands of workers, first responders, and others in the greater New York City area who suffered health issues as a consequence of the World Trade Center attacks.

For more information on the legacy of Frances Perkins — America's leading advocate for industrial safety and workers' rights — visit FRANCESPERKINSCENTER.ORG.



Scan the QR code to read the New York
Workers' Compensation Board's report:
World Trade Center 25-Year Report

To read the full speaker biographies,
visit wcb.ny.gov/2026conference

SPEAKER BIOGRAPHIES



Freida D. Foster

*Chair,
NYS Workers' Compensation Board*

Freida D. Foster joined the Workers' Compensation Board in 2009 and was selected as Chair of the Board in July 2025. Bringing decades of professional experience in education, public relations, and government service to her role as Chair, Ms. Foster also serves as a member of Governor Hochul's cabinet.

Earlier in her career, Ms. Foster managed high-profile public interest clients as a Public Relations Manager at Burson-Marsteller. Her extensive government service includes roles as Assistant to the Governor for African American Affairs, Director of the Governor's Office of Community Affairs, Speechwriter, and Director of Partnerships for the Harlem Armory.

An active civic leader, Ms. Foster has served on numerous boards focused on community development, public service, and student leadership. A former Trustee for the City University of NY with a deep commitment to community service, she concurrently chairs the Harlem Community Development Corporation and the CUNY School of Public Health Community Advisory Board.



Steven M. Scotti

*Executive Director,
NYS Workers' Compensation Board*

Steven M. Scotti joined the Board in 2022, bringing claims and legal operations management expertise from three of the State's largest self-insured employer programs, where he worked as an in-house workers' compensation attorney for over 30 years.

Steven began his public sector career at the U.S. Department of Labor, followed by over 15 years with the NYC Law Department, where he served as Chief of the Workers' Compensation Division. Steven was inducted as a Fellow into The College of Workers' Compensation Lawyers and served on two Governor's workers' compensation task forces, and an FBI task force on fraud. Steven earned a BA in Political Science from SUNY Stony Brook, graduating cum laude, and a Juris Doctor with honors from New York Law School.



Renee L. Delgado

*Vice Chair,
NYS Workers' Compensation Board*

Renee L. Delgado, from Albany County, is Vice Chair of the Workers' Compensation Board. Ms. Delgado has been serving on the WCB since 2022 and has devoted much of her career to advocating for workers' rights. An experienced attorney, Vice Chair Delgado worked for 14 years at the New York State Public Employees Federation, AFL-CIO (PEF) before joining the Board, holding various titles including Associate Counsel, Director of Contract Administration, and General Counsel. Ms. Delgado holds a juris doctorate from the CUNY School of Law at Queens College, a master's degree from John Jay College in Manhattan, and a bachelor's degree from SUNY Albany.



Joe Cavalcante

*Ombudsman/Advocate for Injured Workers,
NYS Workers' Compensation Board*

Joe Cavalcante has served as the Board's Advocate for Injured Workers since 2018 — first joining the agency 20 years ago in communications.

Joe has prior experience at the Federal Emergency Management Agency, as a college instructor, and in the software and health insurance industries. He's also written professionally for decades, including Board publications. He holds a Master of Arts in English from SUNY Albany.



Teri Cooper

*Director of Compliance,
NYS Workers' Compensation Board*

Teri Cooper is the Director of Compliance at the Workers' Compensation Board, where she oversees Employer Compliance and Payer Compliance. Teri first joined the Board in 1999 as an Investigator in the Enforcement unit. She has since held several managerial positions in the Bureau of Compliance, such as Chief Investigator and Program Manager 2, before being named to her current position in 2017. Teri has worked on a wide range of legislative and Governor-led initiatives, including the Exploited Worker Task Force, the implementation of New York Business Express, and Paid Family Leave.



Audrey Maiello Cunningham

*Deputy Director of the Medical Director's Office,
NYS Workers' Compensation Board*

Audrey Maiello Cunningham is responsible for the operations of the Board's Medical Director's Office, providing leadership and oversight within the unit. She previously served as Deputy Inspector General for Workers' Compensation Fraud in the NYS Inspector General's Office. She also served as a prosecutor for the NYS Attorney General's Criminal Prosecutions Bureau and Assistant District Attorney in Bronx County.

Audrey has worked in health care public relations in New York City, specializing in pharmaceutical PR strategies. Audrey received her JD from Loyola University College of Law and her BS from Boston University. She is admitted to practice law in New York and Virginia.



Kerry Cunningham

*Social Work Supervisor,
NYS Workers' Compensation Board*

Kerry Cunningham has over 25 years of experience working as a Licensed Clinical Social Worker. She transitioned to the Board in 2022 after serving eight years at Brookwood Secure Center — Office of Children and Family Services. She also has training in Dialectical Behavioral Therapy and worked for five years as a Clinical Care Manager for a 24/7 clinical referral line managing NYS mental health and substance abuse benefits.

Kerry received her BA in Psychology from Massachusetts College of Liberal Arts, is a Licensed Master Social Worker and holds a Master of Social Work from SUNY Albany. She has a Certificate in Nonprofit Management and Leadership and holds a NYS Provisional Teaching Certification.



Jaclyn Desautels

*Investigator - Workers' Compensation Fraud,
Offices of the New York State Inspector General*

Jaclyn Desautels primarily handles workers' compensation fraud cases, investigating individuals as well as businesses, and follows cases within the criminal justice and judicial system until their closure. She is part of a statewide team that coordinates and manages the prioritization and triage of incoming complaints and cases, helping ensure fraudulent activity is identified, investigated, prosecuted, and resolved effectively.

Jaclyn began her career in the insurance industry in 1999 working on claims. She first began working for the State in 2004 as an investigator with the NYS Insurance Frauds Bureau (now the NYS Department of Financial Services). She has worked as an investigator with the OIG since 2016.



Janet Draina

*Language Access Coordinator,
NYS Workers' Compensation Board*

Janet Draina serves as the Workers' Compensation Board's Language Access Coordinator where she is responsible for day-to-day inquiries and requests for interpretation and translation. As Internal Control Officer, she is also responsible for reviewing and monitoring the Board's internal control system and administering annual risk assessments that identify areas of practice, responsibility, and procedural review.



Taniqua Hunter

*Senior Vocational Rehabilitation Counselor,
NYS Workers' Compensation Board*

Taniqua Hunter came to the Board in 2022 after 17 years as a Vocational Rehabilitation Counselor and Business Relations Representative at Adult Career and Continuing Education Services — Vocational Rehabilitation (ACCES-VR), having helped individuals with disabilities attain and maintain employment. She has over 20 years of experience in vocational rehabilitation.

Taniqua is a Certified Rehabilitation Counselor (CRC), holding a BA in Psychology and an MS in Education in Rehabilitation Counseling from Hofstra University. She is a member of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) Trainer Network via Cornell University and the Northeast ADA Center.



Michael J. Hutter

*Professor of Law,
Albany Law School*

Michael J. Hutter is the senior member of the Albany Law School faculty. Professor Michael J. Hutter's pro bono work led to a legal precedent — *Matter of Hazen* (120 AD3d 82 [3rd Dept.2014]) — for hundreds of volunteers to access benefits and care to treat ailments and illnesses related to exposure to toxic materials while performing rescue, recovery, and clean-up work at Ground Zero following the 9/11 attack.



Deena Jones

*Director of Claims Operations,
NYS Workers' Compensation Board*

Deena Jones is the Director of Claims Operations at the Board. In this role, she provides oversight and leadership in all aspects of claims processing and adjudication support functions for workers' compensation, disability benefits, Paid Family Leave, and discrimination cases. Deena initially joined the Board in 2006 as a consultant and held several leadership positions before being appointed to her current role in 2018. She has contributed to a wide range of legislative and Governor initiatives, including the implementation of Paid Family Leave. Deena holds an MPA from Marist College (now Marist University), and a BA in Communication from SUNY Plattsburgh.



Keith Longden

*Deputy General Counsel,
NYS Workers' Compensation Board*

Keith Longden joined the Board's Office of General Counsel in 1998. Prior to working at the Board, Keith began his legal career at the NYS Insurance Fund. Keith received his BA from SUNY Oneonta and his JD from Albany Law School.



Jacqueline M. Moline, MD, MSc, FACP, FACOEM

*Professor of Occupational Medicine, Epidemiology and Prevention and
Internal Medicine at the Zucker School of Medicine at Hofstra/Northwell*

Jacqueline M. Moline, M.D., M.Sc., FACP, FACOEM is an Occupational Medicine specialist and Professor of Occupational Medicine, Epidemiology and Prevention and Internal Medicine at the Zucker School of Medicine at Hofstra/Northwell. Since 2001, many of Dr. Moline's endeavors have been centered on the medical evaluation and treatment of World Trade Center (WTC) responders. Dr. Moline is the Director of the NYS-funded Occupational and Environmental Medicine of Long Island's clinical centers. Dr. Moline maintains a clinical practice, focusing on patients with occupational exposures with a particular focus on asbestos-exposed individuals.



Anthony E. Munroe, Ed.D.

*President,
Borough of Manhattan Community College*

Dr. Anthony E. Munroe has served as President of Borough of Manhattan Community College (BMCC) since 2020, championing equity, student success, and innovation. Under his leadership, BMCC has improved retention and graduation outcomes, secured major grants, expanded global learning opportunities, and strengthened transfer pathways with institutions including Morehouse College, Columbia University, and Baruch College. Previously, he served as President of Essex County College and Malcolm X College and led several hospitals and healthcare organizations. Munroe serves on the boards of Community Colleges for International Development, the Council for Higher Education Accreditation, and Hispanic Educational Technology Services. His honors include PoliticsNY's Power Players in Education, the Jamaica Independence Award for Educational Leadership, and the Phi Theta Kappa Paragon Award, among many others.



Thomas Neiles

*OnBoard Program Manager,
NYS Workers' Compensation Board*

Thomas Neiles oversees the coordination of activities performed by project teams to modernize Board systems (OnBoard) as a part of the Board's Office of Innovation. Tom joined the Board in 2019 and has over 20 years of experience supporting NYS IT systems in various roles.

Thomas received a BA from SUNY Albany, and a Graduate Certificate in Public Administration from Rockefeller College.



Thomas Parisi

*Associate Attorney,
NYS Workers' Compensation Board*

Thomas Parisi joined the Board in 2022, calling upon his experience as an insurance defense litigator to ensure the quality of health care by providers authorized to treat injured workers and perform independent medical examinations across New York State.

Thomas earned his BA from the University of Miami and graduated from Albany Law School in 1996. Since then, Thomas has acquired a wide array of experience as an Assistant District Attorney in Richmond County, a civil litigation attorney and sole practitioner in South Florida, an Assistant Counsel in the Administrative Appeals unit of the NYS Justice Center for the Protection of People with Special Needs, and as a Senior Attorney with the NYS Department of Transportation.



Juanita Perez-Williams

*Director of Integrated Services and Return to Work,
NYS Workers' Compensation Board*

Juanita Perez, Esq. is the Director of Integrated Services and Regulatory Affairs at the Workers' Compensation Board. Juanita has been with the Board since 2018 and has over 20 years' experience with New York State. While at the Board, Juanita has prioritized support for injured workers by focusing on return-to-work initiatives and growing partnerships with statewide support services. Previously, Juanita was a Regional Commissioner for the NYS Department of Labor and a NYS Assistant Attorney General. Juanita attended the University of California, San Diego, and California Western School of Law.



Quinn Rapp-Ellis

*General Counsel,
NYS Workers' Compensation Board*

Quinn Rapp-Ellis is the Board's General Counsel, overseeing all legal operations of the Board, including management of the Office of General Counsel (OGC). Prior to this role, Quinn served as Governor Hochul's Assistant Secretary for Labor and Workforce, helping to oversee a portfolio of agencies, including the Board. Before the Executive Chamber, Quinn worked within OGC as an Excelsior Service Fellow, Senior Attorney, and then the Board's Director of NYS Paid Family Leave. Quinn holds a JD from New York Law School, an MA in Forensic Psychology and Law from John Jay College, and a BS from Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute.



Bryan D. Richmond, Esq.

*Attorney-In-Charge - Workers' Compensation Fraud,
Offices of the New York State Inspector General*

Bryan D. Richmond directs and supervises all workers' compensation fraud investigations conducted by the Inspector General throughout New York State and assists in the criminal prosecution of all aspects of suspected fraud in the NYS workers' compensation system.

Bryan has more than 20 years of legal experience, including a decade in private practice representing employers, municipalities, insurers, and their insureds in workers' compensation matters and other areas of civil defense litigation. Bryan has presented numerous specialized training courses throughout New York State in the areas of identifying, investigating, and prosecuting workers' compensation fraud and revenue crimes.



Todd C. Roberts, Esq.

*Supervising Attorney,
NYS Workers' Compensation Board*

Todd C. Roberts, Esq., is a Supervising Attorney involved with various litigation matters which involve the Board in both state and federal court. Todd has overseen and been involved in numerous group self-insured trust cases in particular, which have yielded significant recoveries to the Board. Prior to joining the Board, Todd served as staff/trial counsel for Selective Insurance Co. of American, Inc., where he was involved in numerous litigation matters. Todd is a graduate of Boston University School of Law.



James A. Tacci, MD, JD, MPH, FACOEM, FACPM

*Medical Director,
NYS Workers' Compensation Board*

James A. Tacci, MD, JD, MPH, FACOEM, FACPM focuses on ensuring timely, appropriate, and high-quality medical care for injured workers, and optimizing their clinical and functional outcomes.

Previously, Dr. Tacci was a Medical Director and Residency Program Director at the University of Rochester, where he holds part-time clinical and teaching appointments. He has also directed occupational medicine programs and served as a medical consultant.

Dr. Tacci earned his BS in Biology from Cornell University, an MD (with distinction) from the University of Rochester, an MPH from SUNY Albany, and JD (magna cum laude) from Syracuse University. He also completed residencies in General Preventive Medicine & Public Health (NYS Department of Health) and Occupational Medicine (Harvard University).



Anthony Tomaselli

*Ombudsman/Advocate for Business,
NYS Workers' Compensation Board*

Anthony Tomaselli leads the office that serves as the liaison between New York's business community and the Board, helping employers with issues related to workers' compensation, disability benefits, and Paid Family Leave. Prior to joining the Board, Anthony held roles at the NYS Office of General Services, Empire State Development Corp., and NYS Division of Homeland Security and Emergency Services. He was previously a social studies teacher and served as a paratrooper for the U.S. Army, 82nd Airborne Division.

Anthony's education includes a BA in History and Secondary Education and Youth Services from CUNY Queens College, an MA in Liberal Studies from SUNY Stony Brook, and an MPA from Rockefeller College at SUNY Albany.



Oleg Tsyn

*Senior Law Judge,
NYS Workers' Compensation Board*

Oleg Tsyn is Albany Senior Law Judge for the Board. Prior to his current role, Oleg served as a Workers' Compensation Law Judge for eight years. Before that, he worked in the private sector for 12 years doing workers' compensation insurance defense. Oleg earned a BA from Drew University and a JD from Albany Law School.



Allison Lee Turkel

*Special Master,
September 11th Victim Compensation Fund*

In 2023, Allison Turkel was appointed Special Master of the September 11th Victim Compensation Fund (VCF). Allison has served the Department of Justice for over 14 years, most recently in the Office for Victims of Crime (OCV), and previously as the Deputy Director of the Federal, International, and Tribal Division at OVC. Allison was the Director of the National District Attorneys Association's National Center for Prosecution of Child Abuse and served as Assistant District Attorney in the New York County District Attorney's Office for more than nine years. Allison was born and raised in New York City.



Courtney Vallee

*Associate Attorney,
NYS Workers' Compensation Board*

Courtney Vallee has been with the Office of General Counsel since 2016. She drafts regulatory proposals and files all rulemaking activities for the Board. She also drafts bills and monitors proposed legislation for potential Board impact. Courtney also assisted with the launch and implementation of Paid Family Leave in 2018 and currently directs and manages the day-to-day operations of the Paid Family Leave program.

Before joining the Board, Courtney worked at the NYS Liquor Authority as a prosecutor. She graduated summa cum laude from Albany Law School in 2014 and received her BA from SUNY Binghamton in 2010, graduating magna cum laude.

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Silver Level



Continental breakfast and beverages are in **Meeting Room 5**.
Exhibitors are located in the **Northeast Gallery** and **Meeting Room 5**.



**THE NEW YORK STATE WORKERS' COMPENSATION BOARD
PROTECTS THE RIGHTS OF EMPLOYEES AND EMPLOYERS
BY ENSURING THE PROPER DELIVERY OF BENEFITS AND BY
PROMOTING COMPLIANCE WITH THE LAW.**

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