

## 2014 North Carolina Educational Conference Presenter Biographies

### **Wednesday, October 8**

In April of 2014, **Joy Brewer** opened her own law firm, Brewer Law, PLLC. Prior to that, she was with Brooks, Stevens, and Pope, P.A., specializing in Workers' Compensation. Ms. Brewer received a B.A. from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill and a J.D. from Campbell University. She is a member of the N.C. State Bar, the N.C. Bar Association, serves as an N.C. Professional Employer Organization Advisory Council Member, and serves on the Board of Kids' Chance of North Carolina.

**Paul Martin Newby** was born in Asheboro, N.C. He received his B.A. degree in Public Policy Studies from Duke University and law degree from UNC-Chapel Hill School of Law. Justice Newby has served on the Supreme Court of North Carolina since 2004. Justice Newby is an Adjunct Professor of Law at Campbell University, where he teaches courses on state constitutional law and appellate practice. The North Carolina Bar Association honored Justice Newby in 2011 with its Citizen Lawyer Award and in 2012 he received its John McNeill Smith, Jr. Award, recognizing his work in the area of constitutional rights and responsibilities. Justice Newby has travelled across North Carolina, meeting with students and civic groups to discuss the Supreme Court and the role of the judiciary. Justice Newby is an Eagle Scout and actively serves the Boy Scouts. He is the recipient of the Heroism Award for rescuing nine people from a riptide, the God and Service Award, the Silver Beaver Award, and the Scouter of the Year Award. Recently, Justice Newby was designated a Distinguished Eagle Scout, a national honor that recognizes both his service to the Boy Scouts and his dedication to public service. Justice Newby has been married to Macon Tucker Newby since 1983, and they have four children.

**Christopher Loutit** was sworn in as Chief Deputy Commissioner of the North Carolina Industrial Commission on January 3, 2014, having previously served as Administrator of the Commission. Mr. Loutit received his B.A. in History from Trinity College and earned his J.D. from the American University Washington College of Law. Immediately prior to joining the Industrial Commission, he was a partner at the Wilmington law firm of Johnson, Lambeth and Brown, focusing on criminal law and general civil litigation. From 2006 to 2013, Mr. Loutit represented New Hanover County as a Child Support (Title IV-D) Enforcement Attorney. He makes his home in Raleigh with his wife, Lauren, and daughter, Amelia.

**Grant Pair** has been with the North Carolina Industrial Commission since July 2012 and is currently Acting Chief Information Officer. He received a BA and an MLS from the University of Alabama. Prior to joining the Industrial Commission, Mr. Pair served in IT and policy positions with the North Carolina Community College System and the North Carolina Department of Cultural Resources.

**Meredith Henderson** was named the Executive Secretary of the North Carolina Industrial Commission in February of 2011. Ms. Henderson started out at the Industrial Commission as a Special Deputy Commissioner in the Executive Secretary's Office in 2005. In 2008, she began working for then Commission Chair Pamela T. Young as a law clerk and Counsel to the Chair. Ms. Henderson received her B.A. from N.C. State University in 1993 and her law degree from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill in 2002. Prior to joining the Industrial

Commission, Ms. Henderson clerked for Chief Judge John C. Martin of the North Carolina Court of Appeals and also practiced law in Raleigh, focusing primarily on workers' compensation and contract litigation.

**Julia Dixon** received her B.A. from Meredith College, her M.P.A. from North Carolina State University, and her J.D. from the University of North Carolina School of Law. Ms. Dixon is currently a shareholder with Young, Moore, and Henderson, P.A. specializing in the defense of occupational disease claims involving asbestos and silica exposure. She received an A.V. Preeminent Peer Review Rating from Martindale-Hubbell in 2013. She is currently the Treasurer of the North Carolina Association of Defense Attorneys and previously served on the Board of Directors and as the Workers' Compensation Section Chair. She was presented with the inaugural "Outstanding Volunteer Award" by the NCADA in June. Ms. Dixon has served as the primary bill drafter for several significant pieces of legislation to reform the Workers' Compensation Act and continues to provide feedback on proposed rules of the Commission.

An honors graduate of the University of North Carolina School of Law, **Valerie Johnson** is the co-editor of *North Carolina Workers' Compensation Law: A Practical Guide to Success at Every Stage of a Claim* and edited a predecessor guide, *The Essentials of North Carolina Workers' Compensation Law*. She has been board certified in workers' compensation law since the North Carolina State Bar introduced certification in the specialty area in 2000. Valerie serves on the Board of Directors of the North Carolina Advocates for Justice and in 2013, Valerie was selected as chairperson of the organization's Workers' Compensation Committee. Valerie has taught trial advocacy at the University of North Carolina School of Law each semester since 2003 and has taught workers' compensation law at the Wake Forest University School of Law. She was admitted to the National Academy of Social Insurance in 2011. Before becoming an attorney, Valerie was a public school teacher. In 1994, Valerie joined Patterson Harkavy LLP, litigating cases in the areas of workers' compensation, employment discrimination, personal injury, social security, and civil rights. In 2011, Valerie cofounded Copeley Johnson & Groninger PLLC. The firm has offices in Durham and Charlotte and practices in the areas of workers' compensation law, personal injury, bicycle accident law, and the representation of crime victims.

**Michael Clingman** has served as a Regional Director for the Workers Compensation Research Institute (WCRI) since January of 2014. As a Regional Director Mr. Clingman is responsible for broadening the distribution and understanding of the Institute's research by working with policymakers and stakeholders who have an interest in constructive changes in state workers' compensation systems. Prior to joining WCRI he was appointed in 2011 to serve as the Administrator of the Oklahoma Workers' Compensation Court, a position he had previously held from 1985 until 1991. Mr. Clingman's other previous public service positions include the Director of the Oklahoma Office of State Finance, Secretary of the Oklahoma Senate; Oklahoma State Election Director; CEO of the Arkansas Workers' Compensation Commission; CEO of CompSource (the Oklahoma State Insurance Fund); and a Senior Administrative Assistant to Oklahoma Governor George Nigh. He is a Past President of the International Association of Industrial Accident Boards and Commissions, and has served on numerous public policy boards in Oklahoma including the Oklahoma Public Employees Retirement System, the State Bond Advisory Council, the Teachers Retirement Board, and the CompSource Board of Managers. Mr. Clingman also held the position of Director of the Property/Casualty Division for UICI, an insurance and financial services group and was President of Barron Risk Management Services,

a property and casualty third party administrator in San Antonio, Texas. Mr. Clingman is a graduate of the University of Central Oklahoma.

### **Thursday, October 9**

**Joseph Paduda**, the principal of Health Strategy Associates, is a nationally recognized expert in medical management in group health and workers' compensation, with deep experience in pharmacy services. Mr. Paduda also leads CompPharma, a consortium of pharmacy benefit managers active in workers' compensation. In addition to consulting with managed care organizations, employers, health care providers, insurers, and private equity firms, Health Strategy Associates conducts regular surveys on managing work comp pharmacy costs, utilization review, bill review systems, and claims systems. Mr. Paduda is also the prolific author of the controversial [www.ManagedCareMatters.com](http://www.ManagedCareMatters.com) blog and a founder of [HealthWonkReview.com](http://HealthWonkReview.com), a collaborative blog on health care policy. A respected media source, Mr. Paduda has been quoted in the *New York Times*, *Business Week*, *Risk & Insurance*, *CFO Magazine*, *Business Insurance*, and many other publications. In addition, he has appeared on Nightline and Fox Business' Business for Breakfast. He is a member of the National Academy of Social Insurance (NASI) and the 2012 recipient of IAIABC's President's Award, recognizing his efforts to identify solutions to the opioid problem in workers' compensation. Mr. Paduda has a Master's of Science Degree in Health Management from the American University. He lives in Madison, Connecticut and can be reached at 203-314-2632 or [jpaduda@healthstrategyassoc.com](mailto:jpaduda@healthstrategyassoc.com)

**Jennifer Turner** is a native of Greensboro, N.C. In 2002, Jennifer graduated from Duke University where she was a member of the varsity swim team and earned Dean's List Honors as a political science major. She attended Emory University Law School in Atlanta from 2003 to 2006. Upon graduation, Jennifer began practicing at Hedrick, Gardner, Kincheloe & Garofalo, LLP in Charlotte, where she primarily specialized in workers' compensation cases. While in Charlotte, Jennifer won the 2011 Mecklenburg County Jane V. Harper Pro Bono Attorney of the Year Award. In February 2014, Jennifer took a position as the Director of Claims Administration for the North Carolina Industrial Commission. Jennifer and her husband Joel live in Raleigh with their three children - Elle, age 4; Jude, age 2; and Cora, 6 months.

**Emily Baucom** first joined the Industrial Commission as a Special Deputy Commissioner in 2004. Ms. Baucom graduated with honors from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill with a B.A. in History in 1995. She received her JD from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill School of Law in 2001, and was admitted to the North Carolina State Bar in August 2001. Prior to joining the Industrial Commission, Ms. Baucom practiced law in Durham. Ms. Baucom returned to the Commission as a Special Deputy Commissioner in October 2008 following her family's temporary relocation to Charleston, South Carolina from 2005 to 2008.

**Moira Artigues, MD**, received her BA degree in English at the College in Charleston and her MD degree from the Medical University of South Carolina. She is certified by the American Board of Psychiatry and Neurology in General and Forensic Psychiatry. She has a private practice in Cary, North Carolina, in General and Forensic Psychiatry. She consults on forensic cases in both criminal and civil arenas, and provides IMEs for Worker's Compensation. She is a member of many profession organizations including the North Carolina Psychiatric Association,

the American Academy of Psychiatry and the Law, the Carolinas Groups Psychotherapy Society, and is a Fellow of the American Psychiatric Association.

**John C. Schafer** joined the N.C. Industrial Commission as its Dispute Resolution Coordinator in April of 1997. Since June of 1999 he has also served as a Deputy Commissioner responsible for administering the Commission's mediation program. John is a graduate of the University of Notre Dame, and received a J.D. degree from the Wake Forest University School of Law in 1984. Mr. Schafer has served as the Co-Chair of the ADR Book Committee, a joint committee of the North Carolina Dispute Resolution Commission and the Dispute Resolution Section of the North Carolina Bar Association (NCBA), which wrote and published the book titled "Alternative Dispute Resolution in North Carolina: *A New Civil Procedure*" (2003). In 2011 he was the recipient of the NCBA's Peace Award. John is married to attorney Allison B. Schafer, legal counsel and director of policy for the N.C. School Boards Association, and they have two adult children, Jennifer and Eric.

**Thomas M. Clare** is a certified mediator based in Raleigh and Valle Crucis. From 1987 to 2007 he practiced insurance defense law with Teague Campbell Dennis & Gorham, LLP in Raleigh, and from 2008 to 2011 was the resident partner in the Raleigh office of Oxner Thomas + Permar, where he represented plaintiffs in workers' compensation cases. He received his B.A. degree from East Carolina University in 1975 and his J.D. degree from the University of North Carolina School of Law in 1982. He is a Board Certified Specialist in Workers' Compensation Law, and currently mediates full-time statewide, primarily in workers' compensation cases.

**Jolinda Babcock** is the founder of The Law Office of Jolinda Babcock, PLLC and Tarheel Mediations. She graduated *summa cum laude* from the University of Scranton and earned her J.D. from the University of North Carolina School of Law in 1992. As a prior partner in the firm of Robinson & Lawing, LLP, Jolinda focused her practice on handling workers' compensation claims and in 2002 became a certified mediator. Since certification, she has mediated over 2000 workers' compensation cases. She is an active speaker and has served as Committee Chair and program planner for the North Carolina Bar Association's Workers' Compensation and Dispute Resolution Sections' Annual Continuing Education Programs. In addition to serving as a council member for both the Bar Association's Workers' Compensation and Dispute Resolution Sections, she acted as Chair of the Workers' Compensation Section from 2006 to 2007. Jolinda is on the Board of Directors of Kids' Chance of North Carolina, a charity which raises money to provide college scholarships to children of North Carolinians catastrophically injured or killed on the job. She is married to Clint and they have two rescued dogs and enjoy traveling.

**Laura Mavretic** has been a certified mediator since 2000. She graduated cum laude from Furman University and earned her J.D. from Campbell University School of Law. She was a Commissioner of the N.C. Industrial Commission from 1995 until she retired in 2011. After retirement, Laura began a mediation practice limited to workers' compensation cases. Laura was also a Deputy Commissioner for one and a half years. Her work experience includes one and a half years as an appeals referee at the N.C. Employment Security Commission, over six years as a local government attorney, two years as a law clerk for the N.C. Court of Appeals, and several years of private practice. Laura is a past council member for the N.C. Bar Association's Workers' Compensation Section. She is married to Joe Mavretic and they have one adult son, Michael.

**Dr. Dahari Brooks** joined Greensboro Orthopaedics in 2008. He is a board-certified, spine fellowship-trained, orthopaedic surgeon. Dr. Brooks specializes in the surgical and non-operative care of the spine and cares for patients ranging from adolescence through adult. Dr. Brooks has a special interest in degenerative conditions of the spine, spinal deformity, spinal malignancy, and spinal conditions caused by trauma. These conditions include compression fractures degenerative disc disease, herniated discs, spondylolisthesis, scoliosis, osteoarthritis, osteoporosis, stenosis, sciatica, and tumors. Dr. Brooks uses advanced technology to deliver the best possible medical care for his patients. Spinal fusions, discectomies, laminectomies, total disc replacements are a few of the surgical procedures Dr. Brooks performs to improve their quality of life. Prior to joining Greensboro Orthopaedics, Dr. Brooks was an Associate Professor of Orthopaedics at the University of Massachusetts. He was responsible for resident and medical student education. During his tenure, he published several articles in peer-reviewed journals, authored book chapters, lectured at national and local spine society meetings all while maintaining an demanding spine practice. Providing patient-centered care is a priority for Dr. Brooks, and he makes every effort to build positive relationships with his patients.

**Susan L. Jensen, PhD, RN, CCM, MSCC**, is an RN board-certified case manager who specializes in workers' compensation and disease management. Sue has more than 25 years in case management and is currently the Chair for the Commission for Case Management Certification, where she has served as a Subject Matter Expert and Volunteer for more than 7 years. Jensen is CEO of ALARIS, a workers' comp organization that offers case management services to the injured worker and is an Associate Professor at Kirkhof College of Nursing - Grand Valley State University (GVSU) in Grand Rapids, Michigan, where she teaches nursing, health policy and case management to undergraduate and graduate students. Jensen holds a Ph.D. in medical sociology from Western Michigan University and a master's degree in nursing from Michigan State University. Additionally, she is certified as a Medicare Set Aside allocator (MSCC).

**Lanée Borsman** is a native of Emerald Isle, N.C. She attended the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, graduating with a double major in 1990 and then obtained her law degree from Wake Forest University in 1993. She worked in North Carolina in private practice, focusing on real estate closings and real property title until 1999 when she moved to New York to work for firms in the designated counsel program for both Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac. There, she handled title, foreclosure, litigation, eviction, bankruptcy and REO matters for mortgage lenders. Lanée came home to North Carolina in 2007 and later joined the Law Firm of Hutchens, Senter, Kellam and Pettit, where she now practices primarily in the areas of foreclosure, title curative and litigation. She serves on the Board of Directors for the Lawyer Assistance Program of the State Bar and Green's Home for Women, a private recovery home in Fayetteville. She is a frequent speaker at both continuing education and mortgage industry events. Lanée is licensed to practice law in North Carolina (1993) and New York (1999).

**Barbara Armstrong** graduated from Bloomfield College in Bloomfield, New Jersey, and is a Registered Professional Nurse, a Certified Disability Management Specialist, a Certified Case Manager, and a Certified Life Care Planner. She is currently the president of Armstrong & Associates based in Charlotte, North Carolina. Ms. Armstrong has served and currently serves on the board of numerous rehabilitation professional organizations. In addition, Ms. Armstrong currently serves as President of the Rehabilitation Professionals of the Carolinas.

**John Hedrick** is a Board Certified Specialist in workers' compensation law. Mr. Hedrick earned his bachelor's degree from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill in 1987 and his law degree from Campbell University, Norman Adrian Wiggins School of Law in 1991. From 1994-2000, Mr. Hedrick served as a Deputy Commissioner with the North Carolina Industrial Commission. He has been a member of Scudder & Hedrick, PLLC since 2001.

**John H. Ruocchio** practices in the area of workers' compensation defense with the firm Lewis & Roberts, PLLC. He received his undergraduate degree from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill and his law degree from Campbell University School of Law. Mr. Ruocchio is a member of the North Carolina Bar Association, the North Carolina Association of Defense Attorneys, and was admitted to the Bar in North Carolina in 1995. He has been listed in The Best Lawyers in America since 2012.

**Richard Harper** is board-certified in workers' compensation law, and is an elected Fellow of the College of Workers' Compensation Lawyers. A former Deputy Commissioner of the North Carolina Industrial Commission, Mr. Harper represents injured workers and is frequently called upon by other attorneys to assist them and their clients. A graduate of the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill (B.A. in History) and Campbell University School of Law (J.D.), Mr. Harper has been practicing workers' compensation law since 1981. He began his private practice in Sylva in 1990.

**Barbara Ruark** created Orbock Ruark & Dillard, PC as a founding partner with Maureen T. Orbock (retired) and Roger L. Dillard, Jr. in 1995. Ms. Ruark was previously a partner in the Winston-Salem law firm of Petree Stockton where she practiced in the areas of insurance litigation and workers' compensation defense. Ms. Ruark has practiced exclusively in the area of workers' compensation defense since Orbock Ruark & Dillard was created. Ms. Ruark also serves as Of Counsel to the law firm of Constangy Brooks & Smith, LLP. She received a Bachelor of Arts *cum laude* from Wake Forest University in 1984 and graduated *magna cum laude* from the Wake Forest University School of Law in 1987. She has served as an advisor and instructor for Wake Forest University School of Law's successful National Trial Team. She is a member of the North Carolina State Bar, the North Carolina Bar Association and its Workers' Compensation Section, and the Forsyth County Bar Association. She served as the 2009-2010 Chair of the Workers' Compensation Section of the North Carolina Bar Association and continues to serve on the section council, which also she did for a number of years prior to serving as the Chair for 2009-2010.

**Shelley Coleman** is a partner with Hedrick, Gardner, Kincheloe & Garofalo, LLP focusing on defending employers and their insurance carriers in a multitude of workers' compensation matters, including but not limited to, insurance coverage issues, occupational disease claims, and complex medical causation matters. Ms. Coleman also heads Hedrick Gardner's appellate advocacy team, and she routinely handles cases before the North Carolina Court of Appeals and the North Carolina Supreme Court. She received a B.S. from the University of Alabama and a J.D. from Washington and Lee University.

**Kari Schultz** is a partner with Hedrick, Gardner, Kincheloe & Garofalo, LLP providing counseling and litigation defense to employers and insurance companies in workers' compensation claims. In addition to memberships in the North Carolina State Bar, North

Carolina Bar Association, New Hanover County Bar Association, and American Bar Association, Ms. Schultz serves on the Board of Directors of the New Hanover County Bar Association. She received a B.A. from Mary Washington College and a J.D. from Wake Forest University.

### **Friday, October 10**

**Andrew T. Heath** was appointed by Governor Pat McCrory to serve as a Commissioner at the North Carolina Industrial Commission on February 28, 2013. Following the confirmation process, Governor McCrory designated Andrew Heath as the Chairman of the Commission. Prior to joining the Industrial Commission, Chairman Heath was in private practice since 2006, during which time he represented employees while working for The Cole Law Firm, PLLC and employers while working for Hedrick Gardner Kincheloe & Garofalo, LLP. Chairman Heath graduated from the University of North Carolina at Asheville with a B.S. in Management with concentration in Business Administration in 2003. He then attended law school at Indiana University Robert H. McKinney School of Law and received his J.D. in 2006. He resides in Raleigh with his wife, who is also an attorney, and his son and daughter.

**Bryan Strickland** is the Director of the Compliance and Fraud Investigation Section of the North Carolina Industrial Commission. He is a Certified Fraud Examiner and received his undergraduate degrees in Economics and Business Management, and his Master of Public Administration from North Carolina State University. He has been in State government in various capacities for the past 25 years. Most of that time has been spent regulating private businesses, ensuring compliance by State agencies, or auditing State agencies or any entity that received state funding. Just prior to coming to the Industrial Commission, he spent three years as a Fraud Investigation Supervisor for the Office of the State Auditor.

**Brian J. Caveney, MD, JD, MPH** is Vice President and Medical Director of Blue Cross and Blue Shield of North Carolina. He is responsible for the wellness and disease management programs, development of new member engagement strategies, and consultation with customers to optimize benefit designs, improve care quality and contain costs. He is an occupational medicine physician who serves on the faculty of Occupational and Environmental Medicine at Duke University Medical Center, and is the President of the Southeastern Atlantic College of Occupational and Environmental Medicine (SEACOEM), the Virginia, North Carolina and South Carolina components of ACOEM. He served on the Lexis Nexis National Workers' Compensation Advisory Board and was the Editor-in-Chief of *Occupational Injuries and Illnesses* for 4 years.

**Vernon Sumwalt** practices at the Sumwalt Law Firm in Charlotte, North Carolina, primarily in the areas of workers' compensation, personal injury, and disability advocacy. Since 2005, he has been a board certified specialist in workers' compensation law by the North Carolina State Bar and currently serves the Bar as the Chair of its Workers' Compensation Specialization Committee. Mr. Sumwalt is also the Legislative Vice President of the North Carolina Advocates for Justice (NCAJ), where he has served on the Executive Committee since 2013 and the Board of Governors since 2010. He is also a past Chair of the workers' compensation sections of the

NCAJ (2012-2013) and the North Carolina Bar Association (2008-2009). Mr. Sumwalt has presented at over one hundred continuing legal education seminars and has contributed to numerous publications, including *The Law of Workers' Compensation in South Carolina* (S.C. Bar, 2<sup>nd</sup> ed. 1998, 3<sup>rd</sup> ed. 2003, and 4<sup>th</sup> ed. 2005, 5<sup>th</sup> ed. 2008, 6<sup>th</sup> ed. 2012), *The Law of Automobile Insurance in South Carolina* (S.C. Bar, 4<sup>th</sup> ed. 2000, 5<sup>th</sup> ed. 2002, 6<sup>th</sup> ed. 2009), *The South Carolina Law of Damages* (workers' compensation chapter) (S.C. Bar, 1<sup>st</sup> ed. 2004, 2<sup>nd</sup> ed. 2009), *The Complete Guide to Medicare Secondary Payor Compliance* (Chapter 6.11, North Carolina) (Lexis-Nexis® 2011-present), and *North Carolina Workers' Compensation Law: A Practical Guide to Success at Every Stage of a Claim* (Chapter 13, Credits Under the North Carolina Workers' Compensation Act (Lexis-Nexis® 2012)). Mr. Sumwalt has been a member of the Larson's National Workers' Compensation Advisory Board (LexisNexis®) since 2007. He has been recognized by *The Best Lawyers in America*® (2009-present), *North Carolina Super Lawyers* ([www.superlawyers.com](http://www.superlawyers.com)) (2009 as a "Rising Star" and from 2010-present), and in *Top Attorneys in North Carolina* by Charlotte Magazine (2011-present). He received his law degree from the University of South Carolina in 1998.

**Bruce Hamilton** has developed a special expertise in the field of workers' compensation. Bruce has lectured about workers' compensation law at the North Carolina Bar Association's Workers' Compensation Seminars annually from 1997 through 2012. He has also been a member of the faculty and speaker at continuing legal education programs produced by the North Carolina Association of Self-Insurers, North Carolina Academy of Trial Lawyers, Wake Forest University, North Carolina Institute of Government, and Lorman Institute, as well as at the 2007 seminar entitled "Professionalism for Workers' Compensation Attorneys" jointly sponsored by the North Carolina Association of Defense Attorneys and North Carolina Association of Trial Attorneys. In addition, Bruce has lectured at each of the North Carolina Industrial Commission's Annual Educational Conferences from 2001 through 2012, was a council member of the Workers' Compensation Section of the North Carolina Bar Association from 2001 through 2004, was selected by his peers to be included in the North Carolina Edition of *Super Lawyers* from 2006 through 2013 and has been listed in *Best Lawyers in America* since 2001. Most recently Bruce received the unique honor of being named by *Best Lawyers* as its 2013 Raleigh Workers' Compensation-Employers "Lawyer of the Year." He has earned the highest (AV-Rated) ranking awarded by Martindale-Hubbell since 2009. Bruce graduated from Tulane University with a Bachelor of Science degree, and received his Juris Doctor degree from the University of Virginia School of Law. Bruce is a member of the North Carolina Association of Defense Attorneys, North Carolina State Bar, North Carolina Bar Association, and Wake County Bar Association. He is a Fellow in the College of Workers' Compensation Attorneys, and served as member of the legislative negotiations team for the 2011 Workers' Compensation Reform Bill (House Bill 709) and the 2012 Amendments (House Bill 237). In 2013 Bruce was elected to the Board of Directors for the N.C. Association of Self-Insurers. Bruce is admitted to practice before all State and Federal courts in North Carolina.