

"A forum for the exchange of information and ideas relating to claims law."

ANNUAL CLAIMS CONFERENCE & DESIGNATION RECEPTION LAKE BUENA VISTA, FL

By Bryan Kelley, SCLA, Vice President-Conferences



The SCLA Annual Claims Conference and Designation Reception will be held November 3-5, 2011 in Lake Buena Vista, Florida. All of the conference functions, including the Welcome Reception, educational sessions, and the Designation Conferment and Reception will take place in the Great Hall (East & West) of the Buena Vista Palace Hotel & Spa, 1900 Buena Vista Drive, Lake Buena Vista, Florida. The conference follows a three-day schedule beginning with registration and a Welcome Reception on Thursday, November 3, continuing professional education opportunities on Friday and Saturday, November 4 and 5, and concluding with the Designation Conferment and Reception on Saturday evening, November 5.

The Designation Reception follows the Conferment Ceremony on Saturday night and the Reception is all about celebrating your achievement with your spouse or guest – no speeches, just cocktails, dinner, and plenty of fun. Claims professionals who have earned a claim law designation or award from American Educational Institute (AEI) between August 1, 2010 and October 1, 2011 will be recognized at the Designation Conferment. You've done the work, you've successfully completed the examinations, you've earned the designation – now it's time to celebrate! So don't miss out – be there and have an enjoyable evening, you've earned it!

A detailed conference program and registration form is available online at www.sclasociety.org. If you have not yet received a conference brochure/registration form and would like one, contact an SCLA representative at 908-766-5920.

Make your hotel reservation at the special SCLA Conference rate of \$169 + tax (single and double occupancy) per night, by completing the Hotel Reservation section of the Conference Registration Form. The special conference room rate is available through October 3, 2011; after that, room reservations will be accepted based on availability at the prevailing rate. Additional persons will be charged at a rate of \$20 per person, per night, with a maximum of four persons per guestroom. Children under eighteen stay free in their parent's guestroom. **Do not make your hotel reservation directly with the Buena Vista Palace Hotel & Spa – hotel reservations must be made in conjunction with your conference registration with the Society.** You may confirm your hotel reservation beginning on October 3, 2011 by calling the hotel directly at (866) 246-6563. Although the Buena Vista Palace Hotel & Spa will be provided with your credit card information, your card will not be charged until you arrive. However, your card will be charged for one night at the above noted rate if you do not cancel within five (5) days of your expected arrival.

Everything you could possibly want in your Orlando trip is within reach, giving you easy access to the area's most popular attractions. Plan to stay footsteps away from all of Disney's Theme Parks, with complimentary transportation and guaranteed admission, even if the parks are full. If golf is your game, contact Walt Disney World® Golf (407 - WDW-GOLF) to schedule a tee time at one of the four Disney PGA golf courses. And if you plan to extend your stay, the special conference room rate applies three days before the conference start date (Nov. 3) and three days after the conference end date (Nov. 5).

Don't let your achievement go unrecognized, join us in Orlando; you'll find all the information you need at www.sclasociety.org. ▲

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SCLA News is published as a service to its members. Letters to the editor should be forwarded to: SCLA News Editor, P.O. Box 82, Basking Ridge, NJ 07920 or Email: marilyn.obrien@allstate.com

Marilyn O'Brien, SCLA, is the editor of SCLA News

SCLA CLAIMS CONFERENCE – EDUCATION HIGHLIGHTS

Continuing professional education is the primary mission of the Society and the focus of its annual conference. Six claim law education seminars are scheduled beginning on Friday morning, November 4, at 9:00am, and ending on Saturday, November 5 at 1pm. All of the seminars are general sessions and will take place in the Great Hall of the Buena Vista Palace Hotel. The following seminars will be presented at the conference:

Friday, November 4

9:00am – 10:30am

Seminar: Hollywood – With The Assistance of Dustin Hoffman, Walter Matthau and Tyrone Power – Highlights How To Reduce The Exposure To Bad Faith Claims

Claims professionals and their carriers are too frequently put into a defensive position when confronted by allegations of bad faith. The presentation will focus on the procedures and guidelines for preparing the claims file and thus eliminating (or at least reducing) the carrier's exposure to bad faith. The presentation will be highlighted by clips from various films and excerpts from actual claims files. The issue is currently important because many claims of bad faith are based, whether meritorious or not, on the carrier's own claims file.

Speaker: Erwin E. Adler, Esq. Mr. Adler is a founder of the Adler Law Group in Los Angeles.

10:45am – 11:45am

Seminar: A Fresh Look At An Old Remedy: Using Declaratory Judgment Actions To Resolve Claims

There is increasing pressure on insurance professionals to resolve claims at as early a stage as possible. Declaratory judgment actions can be used as a means not only to determine whether there is coverage where coverage is uncertain, but also as a device to resolve claims altogether. Moreover, the mere filing of a coverage action will serve as a defense to a bad faith claim in several jurisdictions. This seminar will discuss the panel's experiences in this regard and make recommendations on the effective use of declaratory judgment actions.

Speakers: Michael D. Chefitz, Esq. and William White, Esq. Mr. Chefitz is a Senior Partner at Bonner Kiernan Trebach & Crociata, LLP and heads up the firm's coverage practice. Mr. White is a partner at the same firm.

12:00pm – 1:00pm

Seminar: How Canines are Used to Detect Ignitable Residue in Fire Investigations

Property fires stem from a multitude of causes and the complex task of uncovering the cause and origin of a fire is an essential step in any insurance investigation. Properly trained accelerant detection dogs can be instrumental in conducting an effective and cost efficient fire investigation. An accelerant detection dog can give fire investigators a significantly greater chance of locating fire debris samples with traces of ignitable liquids that can be quickly confirmed by chemical analysis. This seminar will focus on the benefits of using trained canines to quickly detect ignitable residue. During the last ten minutes of the seminar, Julie, an accelerant detection dog, will demonstrate her ability to detect the presence of ignitable residue.

Speakers: Brian Riedmayer – Mr. Reidmayer is a Fire Consultant with Rimkus Consulting Group and is a Certified Fire Investigator, Certified Fire and Explosion Investigator, Certified Vehicle Fire

Investigator and a Certified Accelerant Detection Canine Handler. Thomas Young - Mr. Young is the Eastern Regional Fire Manager for Rimkus Consulting Group and is a Certified Fire Investigator, Fire Instructor, Fire Inspector and Fire Officer. Julie, the Accelerant Detection Dog – Julie, an accelerant detection dog, is a graduate of the World Detector Dog Organization School with a certification in Accelerant Detection.

Saturday, November 5

9:00am – 10:30am

Seminar: How to Pro-Actively Defend Catastrophic Personal Injury Cases

In order to achieve the best results feasible in catastrophic personal injury cases, a proactive and aggressive defense is necessary. That defense must begin well before suit is filed. This presentation outlines a plan of action for handling such cases which includes: publicity and press releases; litigation hold on documents; investigations; public record requests; excess carriers; experts and expert panels; pre-litigation mediation; advanced payments; comprehensive case analysis; Rule 11 letters; Rule 68 offers of judgment; preparing for any policy limit demand; and trial consultants.

Speaker: Michael A. Patterson, Esq. Mr. Patterson is a senior shareholder at Patterson Buchanan Fobes Leitch & Kalzer, Inc., P.S., a Northwest litigation law firm.

10:45am – 11:45am

Seminar: Conflicts, Conflicts Everywhere: Claim Handling Issues and Procedures When Conflicts of Interest Arise

Conflicts of interest often arise in the handling of claims. The two most common conflicts are (1) when there is more than one insured and the insureds have adverse interests and (2) when the insurer has reserved rights under a liability policy. This seminar will analyze these conflicts and provide procedures to prevent the inadvertent exchange of information between claim files and guidelines for sharing information between files in compliance with the insurer's obligations of good faith.

Speaker: Matthew J. Sekits, Esq. Mr. Sekits is a shareholder in the Seattle office of Bullivant Houser Bailey PC.

12:00pm – 1:00pm

Seminar: Realistic Supervision of Technology and Social Media

This seminar will provide an overview of the status of social networking via technology (Facebook, MYSPACE, Twitter, texting, e-mail, etc.), the unique new supervisory challenges this presents for employers and institutions, and related litigation and claim activity nationwide arising from such technologies. Privacy rights will be discussed, as well as the legal and practical limits of authority and supervision over use. Defense strategies for minimizing exposure from social media claims and litigation will be highlighted, as well as ways to address inappropriate use, cyberbullying, electronic harassment and boundary invasions. Future challenges and possible claim trends will also be highlighted.

Speaker: Charles P.E. Leitch, Esq. Mr. Leitch is a principal of Patterson Buchanan Fobes Leitch & Kalzer, Inc., P.S., a Northwest litigation law firm. ▲

NEW SCLA DESIGNEE 2011 SCLA CLASS REPRESENTATIVE - \$1,000 AWARD!

Anyone achieving the SCLA designation between August 1, 2010 and September 16, 2011 is eligible to be the 2011 SCLA Class Representative. The class representative will address the new designees during the Conferment Ceremony at the conference. The duration of the talk should be a minimum of 10 minutes and a maximum of 15 minutes. And the subject of the talk should be the impact of the SCLA designation in your work. For instance, you could talk about how what you have learned has helped in your claims work, or how your designation has given you more confidence in dealing with attorneys. The class representative will be chosen based on the text of the proposed speech

submitted before the conference. And the chosen designee will receive a cash award of \$1,000 along with a complimentary registration for two. The chosen designee will be responsible for their own travel and hotel expenses.

Interested designees must possess strong public speaking skills. And they must submit a letter of recommendation from their manager attesting to those skills along with a typed copy of the presentation no later than October 1, 2011. Materials should be submitted to American Educational Institute, attn: Selection Committee, P.O. Box 356, Basking Ridge, NJ 07920-0356 or e-mail: pvincent@aeiclaimslaw.com. ▲

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E-mail your updated information to:
dmillman@aeiclaimslaw.com



AEI CLAIMS LAW UPDATE

The AEI Claims Law Update is now e-mailed to all interested Society members on a quarterly basis. If you are not receiving this valuable quarterly update and would like to, please send an email request to: dmillman@aeiclaimslaw.com



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