



The Most Influential People in Workers Comp for 2010

Welcome to the inaugural edition of the Most Influential People in Workers' Comp for 2010. Relying on our knowledge and expertise and that of others, Workers' Comp Executive compiled a list of people who have contributed to California workers' comp in some significant way. Our nominees represent every facet of the workers' comp industry, and it was no easy task considering how many qualified people there are. We would like to thank all those individuals who took the time to participate and for doing the work that you do. To view the full profiles, click on the links below.

[Click on persons name or picture to see full article](#)

See list sorted by Categories



Allweiss, Saul
Attorneys

All-knowing and all-seeing for the defense, he is sought after for his knowledge, influence and candid insight on all things California workers' comp.



Atcherley, Linda
Attorneys

Wise and prolific presence at the Legislature for applicant attorneys' legislative fixes. Gently chides the administration when necessary.



Baker, Christine
Taylor, Lach
Regulators

Insightful, informed and hardworking, they work as a team to bring important workers' comp issues and research to light.



Bellusci, Dave
Actuaries

Actuarial voice of the workers' comp industry, he has to cheerfully take the beatings so frequently inflicted by commissioners, media and others.



Benner, Doug
Physicians

One of the most respected physicians in the industry, he advocates not just about treating the injured worker, but getting that worker back to work.



Brophy, Richard
Attorneys

Knows when to reach out to the other side to solve problems plaguing the workers' comp system.



Broyles, Julianne
Lobbyists

Represents counties and local governments and the interests of the taxpayer in good times and bad.



Bryant, Cynthia
Governor's office

Represents the executive branch on workers' comp, and has helped bring forth some of the most sweeping changes the state has ever known.



Citko, Chris
Regulators

Respected for his level approach to regulation, infinite knowledge of workers' comp, and ability to see issues from many sides and bring those sides together.



Conlin, Peter
Regulators

Great depth of knowledge in both legalities and regulations on behalf of all sides.



Cooley, Ken
Legislature

Principal insurance mind of the Senate Banking, Finance and Insurance Committee, his influence is widely felt. He researches, asks questions, listens, finds answers and frames workers' comp issues in understandable ways.



Desaulnier, Mark
Legislature

Unafraid to challenge the administration on its commitment to injured workers through oversight or legislation.



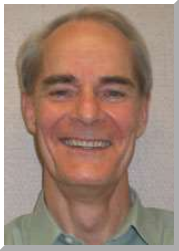
Dombchik, Adam
Attorneys

Tireless advocate as president of the California Applicants' Attorneys Association, he's been front and center on issues that matter most to the care and dignity of injured workers.



Duncan, John
Regulators

As the face of the administration, he has been the engine that drives the Department of Industrial Relations as it embraces the future of delivery of workers' comp benefits and worker safety.



Gerlach, Mark
Consultant

Widely respected voice of reason on behalf of applicant attorneys, and opinion-maker who combines experience with a heaping dose of reality.



Green, Don
Lobbyists

Passionate lobbyist and defender of injured workers' rights, he understands what's in the sausage and where and how it's made.



Hernandez, John
Carriers

Passionate spokesman for the industry, marketing maven and solid defender of brokerage ideals.



Jackson, Clay
Self-Insured

The voice of proper, balanced and conservative administration of self-insured groups. Develops the blueprints and know-how for creating regulations that others follow.



Jacobsmeyer, Jake
Attorneys

Delivers with candor and humor the definitions of reasonableness in workers' comp litigation.



Jones, Dave
Legislature

Tireless advocate for consumers, holding the insurance industry accountable and supporting legislation on behalf of policyholders and small businesses.



Lenz, Charlie
Actuaries

Deep insight into the reality of the numeric universe of workers' comp.



Letz, Gideon
Physicians

Pre-eminent expert in occupational medicine and a big supporter of the ACOEM guidelines. Passionate advocate for injured workers, standards of care and getting good doctors into the system.



Little, Jim
Carriers

Among the first to accept the risk and rollout of a new carrier when the California workers' comp market was devastated.



Marcus, Marc
Attorneys

Chosen by fellow applicant attorneys as the attorney they would most like to represent them if they're injured.



McNally, Sean
Employers

One of the most influential employer spokesmen, his legal and human resources background qualifies him as an expert in return-to-work and all the costs that clog the system.



Mike, Bob
Actuaries

Oversees collection and organization of vast amounts of industry data, preparation of rate filings and promulgation of employers' experience modifications. President of Workers' Compensation Insurance Rating Bureau of California, a private organization.



Miller, Joe
Workers' Compensation Appeals Board

Chairman of the Workers' Compensation Appeals Board, he's held the reins during some of the biggest changes in the system, delivering both popular and unpopular decisions and proving that you can't please everyone, but showing how to do it with knowledge and grace.



Mitchell, Dave
Claims

Knowledgeable voice on workers' comp claims who contributes much to the industry overall.



Mudge, Bill
Carriers

For taking a leap into a new and improving workers' comp market and making it work for employers and brokers all over California.



Muir, Theresa
Employers

Expertise and commonsense approach to cost containment and utilization review.



Neuhauser, Frank
Researcher

His prodigious research delivered on the impacts—intended and otherwise from workers' comp legislation—for informing public policymakers on what's been accomplished and what he thinks must still be done.



Nolan, Michael
Associations

Provides thought leadership with an eye toward influencing the public. One of the workers' comp industry's main information sources.



Norwood, John
Lobbyists

Navigates the conflicts while ably representing varied insurance interests, with his knowledge of the industry and PAC money. His influence earns him the attention and respect of the Legislature.



Orford, Bob
Physicians

Recognized leader in occupational health and safety in the western hemisphere. His impact on bringing evidence-based medicine to California through the American College of Occupational and Environmental Medicine has made a huge difference for injured workers and payers alike.



Represents insurance carrier perspectives to legislators, to the benefit of his clients.

Pahos, Theo
Lobbyists



Courage on tough cases, knowledge of workers' comp and great personal style have earned him the respect of colleagues in both the defense and applicant communities.

Pearlman, Barry
Attorneys



Provides broad knowledge of things financial and guidance to the self-insured industry and its regulators.

Pettegrew, Jeff
Self-Insured



His keen, insightful leadership has catapulted ICW to the top rung of the California workers' comp industry, making him and ICW forces to be reckoned with.

Prior, Kevin
Carriers



Representing one employer link in the workers' comp chain, he reflects in numbers the views and concerns of employers and helps keep the insurance industry honest.

Priven, Mark
Actuaries



Has the governor's ear on issues of workers' comp. His inside knowledge makes him respected by employers and carriers alike.

Pro시오, Mike
Governor's office



Go-to guy on all things insurance in the Legislature. The results of his fine, balanced and informed thinking can be found in major legislation.

Rakich, Mark
Legislature



Leading industry expert on all things medical and claims, recognized for being among the first to ask questions that lead to solutions.

Ramirez, Brenda
Claims



Rank, Steve
Labor

Strong advocate for safety and passionate defender of his fellow ironworkers, he knows better than anyone else the importance of a safe workplace in keeping workers' comp costs down.



Ross, Ritchie
Lobbyists

Quietly and deftly makes things happen for injured workers, the oppressed and the forgotten.



Roxborough, Nick
Pomerance, Drew
Attorneys

Passionately defend employers against the insurance industry. Like David to the industry's Goliath, they never stop reminding insurers that the policyholder comes first.



Schmelzer, Jason
Lobbyists

Represents employers with passion and perseverance, and cares about injured workers.



Searcy, Anne
Physicians

Expertise in occupational medicine sought after by the industry for bringing a new awareness to the partnership between the Division of Workers' Compensation and private industry.



Smith, Linda
Carriers

With 25 years of claims, underwriting, management and leadership in the world of claims and underwriting, Linda proves that insurance is anything but a man's world.



Solorio, Jose
Legislature

Thoughtful chair of the Assembly Insurance Committee in the Legislature, he's earned the praise of his colleagues both Democratic and Republican with his balanced and reasonable approach to workers' comp.



Sorich, Sam
Associations

Fights unintended consequences of insurance wars in the Legislature with friendly persuasion and goodwill for all sides.



Combines knowledge and commonsense to explain medical cost drivers in workers' comp.

Swan, John
Utilization Review



Renowned for his research on the California workers' comp system, his work has led the way in showing the impact of sweeping reforms in California.

Swedlow, Alex
Researcher



His national workers' comp research resulted in development of numerous studies and analyses that have added ammunition to reforms of various aspects of California's workers' comp system.

Victor, Richard
Researcher



Levelheaded regulator willing to learn, he works with grace and sincerity, defining the road map to all things self-insurance.

Ware, Jim
Self-Insured



No-nonsense approach and wealth of experience that cut to the core of what brokers are supposed to do for their clients.

Way, Don
Brokers



Unflappable, well-informed, unafraid and honest. The tough but friendly face of organized labor to the frequently unfriendly world of workers' comp. Fights for the dignity and fair treatment of injured workers.

Wei, Angie
Labor



Wick, Bruce
Employers

Passionately defends employers throughout the workers' comp system, and provides input into the dialogue and wisdom in understanding the consequences.



Wilson, Wayne
Associations

Confronted with a rash of administrative and organization problems within CIGA, he leads the way in reforming internal systems and bringing more transparency and financial discipline to the organization.



Zachry, Bill
Employers

Logical, practical application of ideas and ideals into the system, solving issues from many perspectives.



Zax, Stanley
Carriers

Chairman of Zenith Insurance and perhaps the most informed and influential CEO in the California's workers' comp insurance industry. His honest, straightforward and unbridled opinions are sought after at all levels of government and industry.