

# Conference Program

**Distance Yourself from Risk**



**Risk Management Virtual Conference**

**2020**

**November 4, 5, 11 and 12, 2020**

**Distance Yourself from Risk**

[Click Here to Register](#)



***Welcome!***

Welcome to the 2020 State Risk Management Virtual Conference and our 25th Anniversary! The Bureau of State Risk Management is excited to provide this educational opportunity. We hope the sessions and speakers will provide an encouraging and educational experience. Since 1993, we, as Risk Management Professionals have been bringing our Risk Management partners together at this annual conference to learn and grow. Due to current challenges, this year we are coming to you virtually!

**2020 Conference Planning Committee**

- Jason Gates, Administration
- Laura Ellingson, Administration
- Jake Lowell, Administration
- Brad Templin, Administration
- Kathy Hastert, Administration

## SESSION DESCRIPTIONS

Wednesday, November 4, 2020  
10:00 a.m.– 11:15 a.m.

### **The State of State Risk Management**

This session is an opportunity for an overview of the Bureau of State Risk Management and will provide you with the annual update of Wisconsin's Risk Management Program. Claim costs for each program area (property, liability and worker's compensation), excess insurance renewal updates along with premiums, loss trends and loss control activities are several of the topics that will be discussed in this session. This session will provide an overview of the status of risk financing in the state, initiatives that have been implemented and/or are under consideration to prevent and mitigate claims to control future premium allocations for the agencies.

**Speaker: Jason Gates – DOA**

Thursday, November 5, 2020  
10:00 a.m.– 11:15 a.m.

### **At Home Office Ergonomics – A Practical Approach to Improve Comfort and Optimize Productivity**

Working from home during a global pandemic certainly presents unique challenges - being uncomfortable and inefficient shouldn't be one of them. During this webinar we will review anthropometric data related to office ergonomics, terms and definitions, and ergonomic risk factors. We will also discuss office ergonomic solutions and best practices, from a practical perspective. Upon completion of the session, attendees will better understand ergonomic risk factors and will be able to apply practical solutions for an improved ergonomic set-up in their home office.

**Speaker: Craig Van Asten, Sentry Insurance**

Wednesday, November 11, 2020  
10:00 a.m.– 11:15 a.m.

### **Legal Protections for State Employees**

This session will discuss the Department of Justice's representation of State employees when they are sued based on their actions or omissions while the employees are within the scope of employment. The session will also cover the attorney-client relationship, witness preparation, and settlement considerations.

**Speaker: Ann Peacock, DOJ**

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# SESSION DESCRIPTIONS

Thursday, November 12, 2020  
8:30 a.m.– 10:00 a.m.

## **WC legal update**

Attorney Paul Riegel, Riegel Law SC. Attorney Riegel will provide an update on recent case law affecting our Workers Compensation system and legislative proposals at the Workers Compensation Advisory Council (WCAC). Learn what, if any, impact last year's changes had on our system.

Thursday, November 12, 2020  
10:30 a.m.– 11:45 a.m.

## **Healing Ourselves from 2020**

We have been through a whirlwind: COVID-19, remote work, virtual school, Black Lives Matter protests and riots, politics and the Presidential election, and more! And now on top of all of that, there is a mental health crisis! How do we heal? This talk will honor all that we've been through together and discuss very easy and practical strategies to integrate wellness into our days to care for ourselves, our loved ones, and our work teams. You will walk away with ideas, checklists, and resources to use yourself or post for your employees at work.

**Speaker: Debra Lafler, DHS**

## SPEAKER BIO

**Jason Gates** - DOA, is the Director of Risk Management with the State of Wisconsin, Department of Administration. Jason joined the Bureau of State Risk Management in 2011 as Deputy Director. He is responsible for managing the State's self-funded insurance programs for worker's compensation, property and liability as well as statewide loss control/safety. Jason is a 1997 graduate of Western Illinois University and holds an Associate Risk Management (ARM) designation. Prior to joining the state, Jason has worked in the risk management profession in both the public and private sector. He enjoys the professional challenges and relationships established working in the field of risk management along with continual learning opportunities and the need for creative problem solving. Jason remains professionally active and recently completed a 6-year period on the STRIMA Executive Committee serving as Conference Host (2015) and President (2017).



**Craig Van Asten** - is a Sr. Safety Consultant for Sentry Insurance and is a Wisconsin native. He attended the University of Wisconsin-Oshkosh and majored in Business Administration. After a few years working in industry, he attended the University of Wisconsin-Stout and earned his master's Degree in Risk Control. He has over 15 years of Health & Safety experience, most of which is in heavy manufacturing. Craig now works for Sentry Insurance's National Accounts department at Sentry's home office in Stevens Point, WI.

In his work as a Safety Consultant, Craig assists customers in the administration of their safety programs. Craig believes that safety success is achieved by building sustainable safety management systems where leaders empower people to recognize and mitigate loss exposures.

Craig is a proud husband and father of two. In his spare time, you will find him in the outdoors with his family and friends.



**Ann Peacock** - is an assistant attorney general and the director of the civil litigation unit. She attended the University of Wisconsin Law School where she received her Juris Doctor, magna cum laude, in 2003. Before joining the Department of Justice in 2009, Ms. Peacock worked at Foley & Lardner LLP. During her time at DOJ, she has represented employees of the Department of Corrections in approximately 20 federal jury trials. She also serves as the Immediate Past-President of the Western District of Wisconsin Bar Association.

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## SPEAKER BIO

**Dr. Debra Lafler** - works full-time as the Wellness and Employee Assistance Program Manager for the Wisconsin Department of Health Services (DHS). Debra has over 20 years of experience working in the field of wellness, specializing in worksite wellness. Academically, she earned a Doctorate degree in Spiritual Studies from the Emerson Theological Institute, a Master's degree in Health & Behavior Studies focusing on health education from Columbia University, and a Bachelor's degree in Communication, with certificates in Wellness and Coaching from the University of Wisconsin-Parkside. She has certifications in worksite wellness, fitness, yoga, grief support, and holistic stress management. And in 2019, she was awarded Champion of Employee Well-Being by the Wellness Council of Wisconsin (WCWI) and was one of the Top Health Promotion Professionals listed by the Wellness Council of America (WELCOA).

