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Affinity Group Administrators

Industry Experts Launch Workers' Comp Executive Blogs

By: Dale Debber

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Workers' Comp Executive is excited to announce the launch of a new regular feature for subscribers – topical articles written by outside industry experts on the workers' comp issues of the day. The high value-added feature launched this week with a panel of three experts, with additional voices and some interesting guests brought into to the mix. These people are the thought leaders of our industry and will help us keep you at the top of your game.

The new blogs also offer a sneak peak into upcoming design changes to Workers' Comp Executive's home page and web site. The blogs are also available on the go – as our new site will be – as they are designed to play nicely with mobile devices. You can find the blogs at blogs.wcexec.com or click on the menu item from our home page. Every so often we'll even let you know by email as to what's been written and is in store for you.

The initial line-up of experts includes:

Clay A. Jackson, president and chief legal officer of Affinity Group Administrators. He will discuss Self Insurance groups.

Veteran large lines commercial broker Colin Baird, joins the fray taking on whatever he thinks up next, currently lean manufacturing and how it affects losses and costs.

Pacific Compensation Insurance Company general counsel Mark Webb is on board with his usual insightful and intelligent look at the system from a practical, operational, and political standpoint.

Coming out of the gate Affinity's Jackson is digging into his area of expertise – self-insured groups (SIGs). As a founder of Affinity Group, Clay has been active in the ongoing formation and operation of five (5) self-insured groups at Affinity. He is also active in the California SIG industry having founded the California Alliance of Self-Insured Groups (CA-SIG) in 2005 and served as its first President. He also helped draft numerous SIG regulations, CA-SIG's standards and the CA-SIG regulatory audit criteria that are currently in use.

Clay's initial blog posts take a close look at SIGs and how they operate in the California workers' comp system. He also delves into the question of why an employer might want to join a SIG and the qualities – both for the group and the potential member – that it takes to make a successful partnership. Future topics will touch on issues surrounding loss control, proper investing of earnings and controlling spending, among others.

PacificComp's Mark Webb is also bringing his experience as general counsel and chief compliance officer in addressing the pressing legal and regulatory issues facing the industry at the state and national level. In addition to his experience with PacificComp, Webb is a former assistant general counsel for AIG and was vice president of state affairs for the American Insurance Association's western regional office. Webb also has experience on the other side of the enforcement aisle as a former deputy director of the Arizona Department of Insurance.

Webb's initial post is on the interplay between medical provider networks (MPNs) and utilization review (UR) – and the not-so-subtle attempts by some to undermine the process – attempts that are now gaining steam in the Legislature (see related article here).

Broker Colin Baird is vice president at one of Los Angeles' leading insurance brokers. He is a 24-year large line commercial insurance broker specializing in risk
transfer, contractual reviews, loss analysis, industry benchmarking, and loss control issues.

Colin has recently added to his quiver expertise in lean manufacturing and how its application affects not only a company's profitability but also both its loss costs and final premium costs. Colin's initial blog posts focus on the concepts behind lean manufacturing, as well as offering tips on how to remake corporate leadership and incorporate input from the workforce.

Webb's thoughts on the subject, as well as blog posts by Baird and Jackson, are now available at blogs.wcexec.com.