

## Rehabilitation Update Conference

# Unlocking Barriers to Success

**Sandra Barnes** currently works at the Minnesota Department of Labor and Industry as a supervisor in the Workers' Compensation Division's Compliance, Records and Training unit. Prior to her current position, she was a mediator in the department's Alternative Dispute Resolution unit for approximately five years. As a mediator, Barnes issued administrative decisions involving medical and rehabilitation disputes and mediated cases.



Previous to working at the department, Barnes litigated personal injury cases as an associate at a local insurance defense firm. She also worked for more than 10 years at a firm that exclusively handled workers' compensation claims. Barnes received her bachelor's degree from Metropolitan State University and her Juris Doctor through William Mitchell College of Law. She is a presenter about a variety of workers' compensation topics.

**Ken Peterson** was appointed commissioner of the Minnesota Department of Labor and Industry by Governor Mark Dayton in December 2010. He served in the same position from 1988 to 1990. The agency oversees the state's programs for apprenticeship, construction codes and licensing, occupational safety and health, wage and hour standards, workers' compensation and combative sports.



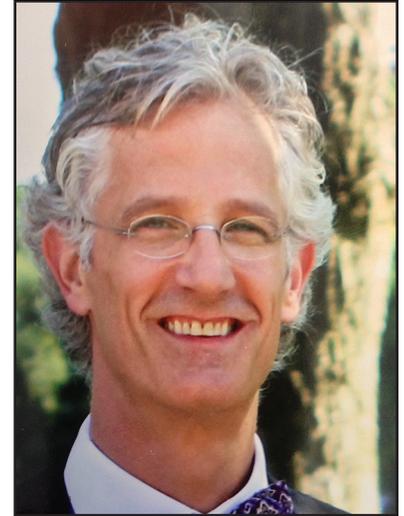
Peterson has served in other leadership roles at the state and city levels. He worked at the Minnesota Attorney General's Office as deputy attorney general for government operations; served as the deputy commissioner for utility regulation of the state Department of Public Safety; directed St. Paul's Planning and Economic Development department and was St. Paul's deputy mayor.

In addition to public service, Peterson has worked in private law practice and as an associate professor of public administration at Metropolitan State University. He earned a bachelor's degree from Hamline University, a Juris Doctor from George Washington University and a Master of Public Administration degree from Harvard University.

# Speakers

**Howard L. Bolter**, J.D., is an MSBA Certified Labor and Employment Law Specialist and has practiced employment law for the past 25 years. He is a shareholder in the law firm of Fishman, Carp, Bescheinen, Bolter & Van Berkomp, Ltd. He received his bachelor's degree from the University of Wisconsin – Madison in 1985 and his Juris Doctor from William Mitchell College of Law in 1988.

Bolter has litigated and tried employment cases in both state and federal court, and has argued employment-related appeals in the Minnesota Court of Appeals, the Minnesota Supreme Court, the Eighth Circuit Court of Appeals and the U.S. Supreme Court. He has been involved in countless administrative proceedings in the Minnesota Department of Human Rights and the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission. He is a frequent lecturer about a variety of employment topics and a trained mediator.



Bolter has been named a *Minnesota Law & Politics* Super Lawyer every year since 2001. He is 2013-14 chairman of the Minnesota State Bar Association's (MSBA's) Labor and Employment Law Section Governing Council and has served on the governing council since 2010. Bolter is also on the board of the MSBA's Labor and Employment Law Specialist Certification Committee.

**Cynthia Bremer**, J.D., has extensive experience in employment law and complex litigation matters. Her practice focuses on representing corporations and corporate management in all types of employment law matters. While her primary focus has been employment litigation defense in federal and state courts throughout the Midwest, including class and collective actions, she also advises companies about critical employment law issues involving past and present employees.

In addition to extensive litigation and advising experience in employment law, Bremer's experience also includes securities arbitrations, commercial and civil litigation and intellectual property litigation.



Prior to entering private practice in Minneapolis in 1999, Bremer was in private practice in North Dakota. While in North Dakota, she was also a special assistant attorney general for the state of North Dakota and represented the state in dozens of administrative hearings and appeals.

Bremer started her legal career as an assistant attorney general for the state of Missouri, assigned to the Complex Litigation Group. Her cases as an assistant attorney general included jury and bench trials, petitions for certiorari to the U.S. Supreme Court on constitutional law issues and key involvement in one of the largest civil RICO cases ever brought in Missouri. She was also appointed as a special assistant attorney general for the prosecution of election law violations.

In addition to being very involved within the legal and business communities, Bremer is a frequent seminar presenter, addressing a variety of human resource and employment law issues.

# Speakers

**Christina Wessel** joined MNSure in March 2014, where she serves as the director of navigator relations, supporting communications between community assistance partners and MNSure.

Prior to coming to MNSure, Wessel worked for the Minnesota Budget Project at the Minnesota Council of Nonprofits, where she spent 13 years advocating about health care policy and educating the nonprofit sector about state budget issues.

She has a master's degree in political science from the University of Minnesota.



**Mark Groves**, is the director of Rehabilitative and Veterans Services and the director amicus at Volunteers of America Minnesota working with the federal Bureau of Prisons providing transitional services at two residential re-entry centers for 120 offenders and ex-offenders. Prior to his current position, he worked at the Minnesota Department of Corrections as the facilities re-entry coordinator developing, managing and coordinating pre-release and transitional services for Minnesota's correctional facilities.

He has a Master of Education degree from the University of Wisconsin – Superior and a Bachelor of Arts degree from the University of Minnesota. He is a Minnesota Licensed Alcohol and Drug Abuse Counselor (LADC). Other achievements include being a Certified Global Career Development Facilitator (GCDF); National Institute of Corrections Offender Workforce Development Facilitator (OWDS) Master Trainer; Motivational Interviewing Master Trainer; Motivational Interviewing Treatment Integrity Scale (MITI) trained; Level of Service Inventory-Revised (LSI-R) trained; Integrated Conflict Management System (ICMS) and Conflict Response Initiative (CRI) facilitator. He serves on many boards and committees related to criminal justice and veterans services.



**Chris Doege**, is the manager of adult re-entry for Amicus, overseeing all adult programs for the agency. He came to Amicus from a 13-year career in the U.S. Postal Service, starting there as a letter carrier in 1993 and advancing to manager of the Twin Cities Metro Hub, Carrier Unit. Doege began his connection with Amicus as a volunteer in 2007. The next year, he was hired on as the program coordinator for Minnesota Circles of Support and Accountability (MNCOSA), a partnership between Amicus and the Minnesota Department of Corrections that provided community support to Level 2 sex offenders both pre- and post-release.

In 2009, Doege moved from MNCOSA to program manager of Amicus' flagship program, One to One, which has been matching trained volunteers with individual offenders for more than 46 years for long-term visits, correspondence and friendship. Doege is a U.S. Navy Veteran who served overseas in the first Gulf War.



# Speakers

**Raymond R. Peterson**, J.D., has been practicing in the fields of workers' compensation and plaintiff's personal injury for 34 years. In addition, he is an adjunct professor at both the University of St. Thomas Law School and Hamline University School of Law on Minnesota workers' compensation law. He is a workers' compensation co-chairman of the Minnesota Trial Lawyers Association; active in the Workers' Compensation Committee; former chairman of the Minnesota State Bar Association Young Lawyers Section; and member of the MTLA Board of Governors.

Peterson has been voted Super Lawyer by *Minnesota Law & Politics* every year since the inception of the award and is also recognized in *The Best Lawyers in America* (Woodward/White). He is rated AV by the Martindale-Hubbell Law Directory. Peterson received a bachelor's degree, cum laude, in 1976 from Macalester College in St. Paul, Minn., and his Juris Doctor, cum laude, in 1980 from William Mitchell College of Law, St. Paul, Minn.



**David Musielwicz** has been implementing the Department of Labor and Industry's (DLI's) Office of Workers' Compensation Ombudsman program since April 2014. Prior to this, he worked as a mediator in the department's Alternative Dispute Resolution (ADR) unit for three years.

Musielewicz also worked for 24 years for the Minnesota House of Representatives, including working on workers' compensation law and policy. He was also a legal aid attorney for more than five years, working with low-income senior citizens and financially distressed farmers.

He received his bachelor's degree from St. John's University in Collegeville, Minnesota, and his Juris Doctor from the University of Minnesota Law School.



**Clayton Overmire** became the Department of Labor and Industry's (DLI's) patient advocate in January 2014, promoting the Patient Advocate Program for DLI's Office of Workers' Compensation Ombudsman. Overmire educates and informs injured Minnesota workers about the treatment options available under the state's Workers' Compensation Act, ensuring the injured workers receive appropriate and effective treatment for low-back injuries.

From 2007 until 2014, Overmire worked in DLI's Special Compensation Fund, analyzing, managing and resolving complex uninsured and occupational disease workers' compensation claims. He also negotiated settlements and conducted independent medical examinations to determine claim compensability under the Minnesota Workers' Compensation Act. Prior to working at DLI, Overmire worked for one of the largest private insurers in the United States and a leading North American third-party administrator, managing automotive injury claims and workers' compensation claims. He has worked in the insurance claims industry since January 1998, beginning with personal injury auto claims.

