Jon Brothen is a supervisor in the Compliance, Records and Training (CRT) unit of the Minnesota Department of Labor and Industry’s Workers’ Compensation Division. Recently, he was a management analyst coordinating the unit’s electronic data interchange (EDI) program, where he administered information systems and ensured data accuracy.

Brothen earned a bachelor’s degree from St. John’s University and a Juris Doctor from the Catholic University of America – Columbus School of Law.

Ken Peterson has served as commissioner of the Minnesota Department of Labor and Industry under Governor Mark Dayton since January 2011. He previously 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. His chief goals during the Dayton administration’s second term are to help better prepare Minnesota’s future workforce, make the state’s workplaces safer, and work with labor and employers to improve the workers’ compensation system.

Peterson has served in other leadership roles at the state and city levels. He served as deputy attorney general at the Minnesota Attorney General’s Office; was 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 management at Metropolitan State University. Peterson started his legal career on the Leech Lake Indian Reservation in northern Minnesota. He is past president of the National Association of Government Labor Officials and serves on the board of directors for the Minnesota Safety Council, St. Paul District Energy and The History Theater.

Peterson grew up in Osakis, Minnesota, and is a graduate of Hamline University (bachelor’s degree), George Washington University (Juris Doctor) and Harvard University (Master of Public Administration degree). He and his wife live in St. Paul and have two adult children.
Uzma Samadani

Uzma Samadani, M.D., Ph.D., is a neurosurgeon and brain injury researcher at Hennepin Healthcare (formerly Hennepin County Medical Center), the largest level one trauma center in Minnesota and one of the busiest in the United States, with a catchment area extending west to the Dakotas, east to Wisconsin, south to Iowa and north to Lake Superior. She moved to Minneapolis in 2015 and was named to Mpls. St. Paul Magazine’s Top Doctors in Neurosurgery lists in 2016, 2017 and 2018. She was on the cover of the Top Doctors 2018 edition with the headline, “The Doctor Will Save You Now.” In 2018 she was also awarded the Courageous Women in Healthcare award by the Women’s Health Leadership Trust.

Samadani serves as the Rockswold Kaplan Endowed Chair for Traumatic Brain Injury Research at Hennepin Healthcare and as an associate professor of neurosurgery at the University of Minnesota. She is also an attending neurosurgeon at the Minneapolis Veterans Administration Medical Center and founder of the neurodiagnostic start-up Oculogica Inc.

She is on the executive committee of the American Association of Neurological Surgeons/Congress of Neurological Surgeons Joint Section on Neurotrauma and Critical Care and served as scientific program chair for their meeting in conjunction with the National Neurotrauma Society from 2014 through 2017. She serves on the board and is president-elect of ThinkFirst Foundation, the largest brain injury prevention foundation in the world. She currently chairs the Minnesota State Traumatic Brain and Spinal Cord Injury Research Program. She is a past-president of Women in Neurosurgery.

Samadani has received more than $3 million in research grants from national and international competitive funding agencies to study diagnostics, risks, outcomes and treatments for brain injury. She has been funded by the U.S. Veterans Administration, National Space and Biomedical Research Institute, Abbott Diagnostic Laboratories, American College of Surgeons, American Association of Neurological Surgeons, Thrasher Research Fund, Integra, the Steven and Alexandra Cohen Foundation and several other organizations.

She is certified by the American Board of Neurological Surgeons and is a fellow of the American College of Surgeons and American Association of Neurological Surgeons. Her research on brain injury has been discussed in The New York Times, LeMonde, LeFigaro, Wired, The Washington Post, Sports Illustrated, Forbes and Minneapolis Star Tribune, as well as numerous other media sources. She has been a speaker at TedMed, the North American Brain Injury Society, National Neurotrauma Society, American Association of Neurological Surgeons meeting and multiple other conferences. She has published more than 50 peer-reviewed scientific papers and an additional 30 reviews and chapters including in the Journal of Neurotrauma, JAMA Neurology, Journal of Neurosurgery and The New England Journal of Medicine.

Samadani also serves as an unaffiliated neurotrauma consultant to the National Football League.

Lynn Vincent

Lynn Vincent is the supervisor of vocational services for Courage Kenny Rehabilitation Institute, part of Allina Health. She oversees vocational evaluation, placement and extended employment services.

She has more than 30 years of experience in the vocational rehabilitation field and is a certified vocational evaluator. Vincent specializes in assistive technology.

She earned her bachelor’s degree from the University of Wisconsin – Stout.
Eric Aamoth

Erik Aamoth, is vice president of career education and employment services at Avivo. He joined Avivo in 2018 and provides leadership for its employment services division and the Avivo Institute of Career and Technical Education. With 15 years of experience in workforce development, specifically with the Minnesota Department of Employment and Economic Development, he has expertise in program and policy management of state and federal, adult and youth employment programs, as well as in services and initiatives for workforce development for businesses.

Aamoth also has experience managing legislative and public policy in commerce, housing, economic and workforce development, and criminal justice.

He has a master’s degree in public affairs leadership from the University of Minnesota’s Humphrey School of Public Affairs and a bachelor’s degree in political science from St. Olaf College.

Lisa Parteh

Lisa Parteh is vice president of client services at Functional Industries, Inc. With 23 years of experience, her focus has been to provide placement services to challenging individuals who are dually diagnosed or have severe physical or mental disabilities.

She has a bachelor’s degree in psychology from Bethel University and has done master’s level course work in organizational leadership. Parteh believes the key to successful placement is interactive communications and strong employer relationships.

Functional Industries is a registered placement vendor with the Minnesota Department of Labor and Industry, Minnesota Department of Employment and Economic Development – Vocational Rehabilitation Services and Department of Human Services. It provides an array of services, including job-seeking-skills training, on-the-job evaluations, job development and specialization in the individual placement and support (IPS) model.

The IPS model focuses on a team approach when working with individuals having anxiety or depression. Rather than wait for mental health issues to be completely resolved, it is believed the best treatment is to get individuals into real jobs as soon as possible. Or, as tennis legend and activist Arthur Ashe said, “Start where you are. Use what you have. Do what you can.”

Employment may start out on a part-time basis and then transition to full-time status as confidence is gained and the desired job obtained.

Ingrid Christensen

Ingrid Christensen is a language service professional with more than 16 years of experience in the interpreting and translating industry. She is founder and president of INGCO International, a global language firm providing on-site interpreting and translation in more than 200 languages.

Christensen has worked with numerous cultural groups inside and outside the United States; her clients include Nike, 3M, H.B. Fuller, and many small and mid-sized companies and nonprofit organizations.

Learn more about INGCO International at ingcointernational.com.
Speakers

Matt Jobe

Matt Jobe is an attorney in the Office of General Counsel at the Minnesota Department of Labor and Industry (DLI). He works primarily in the areas of OSHA, workers’ compensation, combative sports and data management. Before coming to DLI, he was a law clerk with Hennepin County Family Court and the Minnesota Supreme Court.

Jobe received a bachelor’s degree in history, summa cum laude, from St. Olaf College in 2009; and a master’s degree in legal history and Juris Doctor, Order of the Coif, from the University of Virginia in 2013.

Ken Askew

Ken Askew has been providing services to individuals with disability for more than 34 years. He performed his first independent vocational evaluation (IVE) in 1989 and has performed hundreds of them in the Minnesota workers’ compensation system. He has also evaluated employment-related age and racial discrimination, USERRA-reserve military employment discrimination, Veterans Administration, legal malpractice, Minnesota no-fault auto, family law, ERISA/LTD, FELA/Railroad, SSDI and federal jurisdiction injury cases.

Askew lives on Green Lake in Spicer, Minnesota, and commutes to his office in Bloomington during the week. His qualifications can be reviewed on LinkedIn. Contact him at kaskew@askewrehab.com.

Aimee Klapach

Aimee Klapach, M.D., is a board-certified orthopedic surgeon who specializes in sports knee and shoulder injuries. She has additional board certification in orthopedic sports medicine, so her expertise encompasses advanced arthroscopic techniques and reconstructive surgery.

Klapach was graduated with honors from the University of Iowa medical school. Following her residency in orthopedic surgery at University of Iowa, she completed a Fellowship in Sports Medicine and Shoulder at the prestigious Hospital for Special Surgery in New York City.

Klapach serves as team physician, providing orthopedic care to Minnesota United FC professional soccer team athletes. She is also team physician for Cretin-Derham Hall High School, Macalester College and Metropolis Rugby. She is the medical consultant to Northern Lights Junior Volleyball and medical director for the Allina Health ACL Prevention program.

An avid athlete herself, Klapach received numerous awards during her career on the University of Iowa field hockey team. She was repeatedly selected for the Big 10 All-Academic Team, earned the Big 10 Player of the Week title and a Division I All-American Honorable Mention. In addition to being an ongoing team member and team captain, Klapach also served as an assistant coach for the 1994-95 season.
Klapach has received several awards for her research and academic work. She won the Mid-America Orthopaedic Association Award for Excellence in Writing and has served as a mentor for the American Medical Women’s Association. In addition, several of her articles have been published in the prestigious *Journal of Bone and Joint Surgery*. She has presented at many regional and national conferences, including the American Academy of Orthopaedic Surgeons. Since 2005, Dr. Klapach has been designated on multiple occasions as a Top Doctor in both *Mpls/St. Paul* and *Minnesota Monthly* magazines.