

2010 Atlanta Claims Association Golf & Tennis Outing on June 15

Take advantage of this opportunity to advertise your company to the Atlanta claims industry

19th Hole: Ringler Associates

Golf Cart: Custard Insurance Adjusters, Inc. (cia)

Charity Helicopter Ball Drop: FRSTeam

Bovis, Kyle & Burch, LLC

Lunch: Waffle House

Gold (sold out):

Austin & Sparks, P.C.

Delta Associated Investigations, Inc.

Engineering Systems, Inc.

Engle Martin & Associates, Inc.

Global Trans Services, Inc.

Goodman McGuffey Lindsey & Johnson, LLP

Hall, Booth, Smith & Slover PC

HSA Engineers & Scientists

Parker Young Construction, Inc.

Sedgwick CMS

ServiceMaster of Cobb

Vernis & Bowling of Atlanta, LLC

Hole-in-One (sold out):

Enterprise Rent-A-Car

Gray, Rust, St. Amand, Moffett & Brieske, LLP

Partridge, Smith, P.C.

SEA, Ltd.

Silver:

Forcon International

Mabry & McClelland, LLP

Bronze:

Audit Services, Inc.

Hamilton, Westby, Antonowich & Anderson, L.L.C.

Optimal Care

Program: Konica Minolta

Available sponsorships still remaining:

Dinner - \$2,000

Beverage Cart - \$1,000

Bronze - \$200

Prize - \$50+ gift

**Payment may be made by check payable to Atlanta Claims Association and sent to Scott Busby at the address listed below.

Please email your company logo to Scott Busby. Company logos and payment must be submitted no later than June 8, 2010. Please note some sponsorship levels are of limited availability and will be filled on a first come, first served basis.

Scott Busby

Phone: 678-338-3911; Fax: 770-668-0878

Email: busby@boviskyle.com

Bovis, Kyle & Burch, LLC

200 Ashford Center North, Suite 500

Atlanta, GA 30338-2668

Online payment available at www.atlantacclaims.com

Highlights from the Legislature

Submitted by Legislative Chair, Lisa Wade

In workers' compensation, there were two bills of interest, one routine and one very controversial. HB 1101 was the Board sponsored bill that does essentially two things: (1) it allows the Board to publish decisions and leaves the discretion as to when, what (ALJ or Appellate Decision, all, or select ones of value to practitioners) and how (internally or subbed out) the decisions are to be published up to the Board and (2) it strengthens the authority of the Self Insurers Guaranty Trust Fund Board to police its own and make sure the members comply with internal protocol and pay when they should. It passed without opposition.

HB 1364 was the SEUS insolvency bail out bill that had a more tortured path. As originally written, it applied to SEUS and Cornerstone (though written for SEUS) and mandated that the GIIP (Georgia Insurers Insolvency Pool) cover claims by the insureds of these captives if the insured made a one time payment of \$5000 into the Pool. If the insured was worth more than \$25,000,000 (like cities, counties, school boards), they would pay \$20,000. It passed the House in that manner, but was amended in the Senate to raise the payments (\$20,000 and \$100,000 respectively) and make them per claim. It also expanded the scope to cover previous claims of future captive insolvencies and remove the \$25,000,000 threshold across the board. It passed the Senate 47-2. Back in the House on Day 40, the buy-ins were cut in half (\$10,000 per claim and \$50,000 per claim) and the other language affecting the Pool was dropped. The bill as amended passed and was agreed to by both Houses. It now goes to the Governor. The bill has retroactive application, is substantive in nature, and will cost traditional workers' compensation insurers and their policyholders who fund the Pool.

HB 24 was a substantial revision of the Evidence Code to bring it more in line with the Federal Rules of Evidence. It passed the House (a holdover from last year) then died on Day 39 in the Senate.

HB 973 (then later as resuscitated in SB 7) attempted to raise the Magistrate Court jurisdiction from \$15,000 to \$25,000 thereby sending more cases there instead of state or superior court. This bill died twice. The Magistrate court association and the trial lawyers were for the bill. Generally, businesses and insurers were against it, but not uniformly.

SB 458 Seatbelts----after years and years, seat belts in pickup trucks are now required except when the pickup truck is for actual agricultural use.

Two bills prohibit texting while driving. HB 23 deals with drivers under 18 years of age and SB 360 deals with drivers over 18 years of age. Either way, it is a bad idea to text and drive with potential disastrous consequences---wreck, death, etc. Now there is also the consequence of drivers getting points or having their license suspended.

HB 417: If there is a dispute on insurance issue involving language other than English, the dispute is to be resolved by the four corners of the policy written in English.