



## 2026 SPRING EDUCATION SESSION SPEAKER BIOGRAPHIES



**Geoff Sinclair, Vice President – Public Sector Practice, Brown & Brown Insurance**

*Session: SAM Insurance Considerations*

Geoff began his insurance career in 1996, working as a claims adjuster and supervisor for City County Insurance Services, Special Districts Association of Oregon (SDAO), Fred Meyer/Kroger, Portland General Electric, Thrifty/Payless, and the Archdiocese of Portland. In 2002, he transitioned to SDAO as the Director of Claims/Litigation and Property Casualty Coverage for Education Risk Pool (PACE) Services, where he managed the claims office and all contracted services for PACE.

Geoff is a skilled public speaker and trainer, known for his engaging presentations on topics such as board member responsibilities, litigation management, Oregon torts and law, sexual abuse, safety and security, risk management, and cyber risks. He has spoken at numerous conferences, including those hosted by SDAO, OASBO, OSSOA, PRIMA, OFSMA, PACE, OFCA, OWRC, and the Colorado Special Districts Association.

He holds a BS in Business Economics from Willamette University and is a licensed agent in Oregon, Washington, Alaska, and Wyoming, with an associate in risk management (ARM) designation. Geoff serves as a non-voting board member of the Oregon Association of School Business Officials (OASBO) and an associate board member of the Oregon School Safety Officers Association (OSSOA). Additionally, he is on the Make-A-Wish Foundation of Oregon Ambassador Board, having previously served as a board member and chair.



**Jens Jensen, Director of Claims - SDAO**

*Session: SAM Insurance Considerations*

Jens has been with SDAO for over 20 years now and serves as Director of Property Casualty Claims. He has a team of nine seasoned claims professionals managing every type of exposure and loss you can imagine.



## 2026 SPRING EDUCATION SESSION SPEAKER BIOGRAPHIES



**Juan Benavidez, Emergency Management Specialist, Salem-Keizer Public Schools**

*Session: Leveraging Artificial Intelligence in Emergency Operations*

As the Emergency Manager for Salem-Keizer Public Schools (SKPS), Juan leads district-wide efforts to keep more than 40,000 students and staff safe across 60+ schools and facilities. Juan's work focuses on emergency planning, coordination with local agencies, and ensuring schools are prepared to respond to crises ranging from natural disasters to security threats.

Juan oversees training, drills, and communication systems to build a strong culture of safety and resilience. Collaboration with school staff, parents, and community partners is central to his approach, helping ensure every site can respond quickly and effectively.

Juan holds a bachelor's degree in justice studies from Grand Canyon University. Outside of work, he has been married for 13 years and is the proud father of three daughters.



**Karl Anderson, Risk Management Finance Analyst – State of Oregon Department of Administrative Services**

*Session: I Used to Price Mortality; Now I Price Chaos*

Karl spent almost three decades as an actuary and executive at a Fortune 500 financial services company, working primarily with life insurance and annuities—where the goal was to price risk using large datasets, stable assumptions, and people who (statistically speaking) behave predictably.

In 2019, he joined the Risk Management division of the Oregon Department of Administrative Services as a Finance Analyst. There, the datasets are smaller, the risks are messier, and the phrase “it depends” comes up much more often. Karl enjoys comparing how risk management works in the private and public sectors—and what each can learn from the other.

Karl moved to Oregon from Minnesota in 2010 and married Kara. They share their Salem house with three dogs and have a total of six adult children and two grandchildren.



## 2026 SPRING EDUCATION SESSION SPEAKER BIOGRAPHIES



**Luke Reese, Attorney – Garrett Hemann Robertson, P.C.**

*Sessions: Legal Lightning Round: Protecting Your Organization From Every Angle and SAM Insurance Considerations*

Luke Reese is widely respected as both a formidable litigator and an empathetic collaborator. Clients, opposing counsel, and judges consistently praise his thorough preparation, dedication, and ability to understand his clients' needs quickly and deeply. Known for producing thoughtful, high-quality work under tight timelines, Luke combines strong advocacy with practical, business-minded advice.

Luke focuses his litigation practice on defending employers in state and federal courts across Oregon. He works closely with clients to achieve cost-effective outcomes at trial or through alternative forms of dispute resolution. He also provides human resources consultation to employers of all sizes to help prevent disputes before they arise. In addition to representing private employers, Luke defends public entities against tort and constitutional claims, including Section 1983, Title IX, IDEA, and other education-related matters brought by students and staff.

Luke serves on the Board of the Boys & Girls Club of Salem, Marion, and Polk Counties. He joined the firm in 2007 and became a shareholder in 2012.



**Rebecca Watkins, Partner - SBH Legal**

*Session: Legal Lightning Round: Protecting Your Organization From Every Angle*

In 2004, Rebecca joined SBH Legal; she is now a partner of the firm. Rebecca represents employers and insurers in civil litigation and workers' compensation disputes. She defends clients before agencies such as the EEOC, BOLI, and the Workers' Compensation Board, and before state and federal courts in Oregon and Washington.

Rebecca also manages the appellate department at SBH Legal. In addition to litigation, Rebecca enjoys consulting with employers on difficult employment decisions to help them avoid lawsuits. She regularly provides training for employers and HR professionals.

Prior to beginning her law career, Rebecca worked in the cognitive research field, and with individuals with developmental and behavioral disabilities.