



**Location:**

RCM&D  
555 Fairmount Ave  
Towson, MD 21286

**PLEASE NOTE:**

This event is in person only

5:00 – 5:30pm: Networking  
5:30 – 7:00pm: Lightning Rounds

**Cost:**

\$0 Members\*  
\$30 Non-Members

*\*Members must log in to receive member pricing*

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**Questions:**

Rina Borg  
md-dcshrm@mgsolutions.org

**September 21, 2023**



*“MD-DC SHRM Lightning Rounds 2023”*

- Environmental, Social & Governance (ESG) in Healthcare
- Swamped with Subpoenas and Inundated with Interrogatories? Tips for Optimizing the Risk-Defense Counsel Relationship
- Northwest Hospital SafeHuddle – Leading to High Reliability Organization
- Nuclear Verdict Update

**Speakers:**

**Denise Whiting Dawson, RN, MHSA, ARM-E, CPHRM, DFASHRM**  
RCM&D

**Nancy Connelly, RN, CPHRM, DFASHRM**  
RCM&D

**Carolyn “Carrie” Israel Stein, Esq**  
Kiernan Trebach LLP

**Deb Baden, BA, BSN/RN, JD, CPHRM**  
Lifebridge Health System

**Christina N. Billiet, Esq**  
Waranch & Brown, LLC

**Daniel Costello, Esq**  
Wharton Levin

**Timothy Fisher, Esq**  
Wharton Levin

## Speaker Biographies

### **Denise Whiting Dawson, RN, MHSA, ARM-E, CPHRM, DFASHRM**

*“Environmental, Social, and Governance (ESG) in Healthcare”*

Denise Whiting Dawson joined RCM&D in 2008 as a Risk Management Consultant within the Healthcare Division. She is a nationally recognized healthcare enterprise risk management professional with over 30 years of healthcare experience, more than 20 of which specializing in risk management, regulatory compliance, quality improvement and patient safety.

In her current role, Denise is Team Leader for the RCM&D/SISCO risk and liability claims management services. She provides program leadership and works directly with clients to implement risk mitigation strategies in clinical and non-clinical areas across the healthcare enterprise. In addition, she provides comprehensive professional support services to help clients comply with new and changing regulatory requirements, evaluate emerging exposures through onsite risk assessments, navigate claims processes and develop recommendations and solutions for today’s complex risks. In addition, Denise currently leads RCM&D’s Healthcare Enterprise Risk Management (ERM) service line.

Denise is a former President of the American Society for Healthcare Risk Management (ASHRM). She has also served on the Board for ASHRM for two terms. She is currently an active member of ASHRM affiliated chapters in several states. Denise sits on ASHRM’s Enterprise Risk Management Task Force and the ASHRM Leadership Task Force. She is a faculty member for ASHRM’s ERM Certificate program and Healthcare Risk Management Certificate program. She recently co-authored ASHRM’s second edition of the “ERM Playbook for Healthcare.” Denise speaks nationally on several healthcare enterprise risk management topics.

Before joining RCM&D, Denise began her career as a staff nurse at Geisinger Medical Center, where she spent 19 years advancing to the position of Director Risk Manager.

### **Nancy Connelly, RN, CPHRM, DFASHRM**

*“Swamped with Subpoenas and Inundated with Interrogatories?  
Tips for Optimizing the Risk-Defense Counsel Relationship”*

Nancy Connelly joined the Healthcare Division at RCM&D in 2003. As a registered nurse with over 20 years of experience in risk management, Nancy understands the unique challenges facing healthcare organizations. At RCM&D, she channels that understanding to help clients not only identify and reduce exposures but also enhance patient safety and improve processes.

As a risk management consultant to RCM&D's healthcare clients, Nancy performs risk assessments, conducts post-event analyses following adverse events, develops customized educational programs, and researches evidence-based practices unique to the organization's needs. Nancy is a member of RCM&D's healthcare enterprise risk management team and provides locum tenens consulting for healthcare organizations in the mid-Atlantic region.

Nancy shares her expertise across varied audiences including obstetric and neonatal, long-term care, rehabilitation and physician practices. She has lectured on topics such as patient monitoring and documentation, disclosure and apology, risk management, and more. She has contributed to published works including ASHRM's "Physician Office Risk Management Playbook" in 2016, "Risk Management Pearls for Obstetrics" in 2013, and the "Obstetric Risk Management Playbook" in 2017. She is an active member of ASHRM and MD-DC SHRM.

**Carolyn "Carrie" Israel Stein, Esq.**

*"Swamped with Subpoenas and Inundated with Interrogatories?  
Tips for Optimizing the Risk-Defense Counsel Relationship"*

Carrie is a Partner in the firm's District of Columbia office with over 30 years of experience litigating civil cases. Carrie devotes a significant portion of her practice to the defense of claims of alleged healthcare medical malpractice.

Carrie has defended hospitals, hospital systems, ambulatory surgery centers, nursing homes, home health agencies, assisted living facilities, various types of practice groups, physicians, physicians' assistants, nurses, nurse practitioners, and other healthcare providers in a large variety of claims of medical negligence, including claims of birth-related injuries, improperly performed surgeries, other surgical complications such as wrong-side surgeries and anesthesia complications, failure to diagnose cancer, stroke diagnosis and treatment, improper anticoagulation, misinterpretation of imaging studies, administration of improper medication, administration of excessive medications, failure to obtain informed consent psychological malpractice, birth injuries, epiglottitis, infectious diseases, vaccine-related injuries, improper neonatal care, inappropriate use of anesthesia, improper monitoring, retained foreign bodies, hospital falls, decubitus ulcers, failure to communicate, and other injury and wrongful death actions.

Carrie also represents medical professionals before state licensing and regulatory agencies.

Carrie currently serves as President of the MD-DC Society for Healthcare Risk Management (MD-DC SHRM), an affiliate of the American Society for Healthcare Risk Management (ASHRM). She also serves as Co-Chair of MD-DC SHRM's Legislative Committee.

Carrie has served as an invited speaker for the American Society for ASHRM, MD-DC SHRM, the District of Columbia Voluntary Bar Association, and various hospitals and insurers. She has reported cases from both the Maryland Court of Appeals and the District of Columbia Court of Appeals.

Carrie has been recognized as a Top-Rated (AV) Lawyer by Lexis Nexis Martindale-Hubbell.

**Deb Baden, BA, BSN/RN, JD, CPHRM**

*“Northwestern Hospital SafeHuddle – Leading to High Reliability Organizations”*

Deborah Baden joined LifeBridge Health in 2019 as the Director of Risk Management and Patient Safety. As a registered nurse and licensed attorney, Deborah has assumed various positions in healthcare risk management over the past 18 years. She provides risk management leadership oversight in clinical risk management safety event reporting, risk management investigation and risk mitigation strategic approaches across the healthcare enterprise. She has lectured over the years on a variety of healthcare risk management topics with an emphasis on practical applications of risk management principles at the clinical bedside. She holds a bachelor of arts degree in Anthropology from Northwestern University and a bachelors degree of science in Nursing from Creighton University. After serving six years in the United States Air Force Nurse Corps, she left the military service having served as Captain to obtain a law degree from Widener University. Deborah is a certified professional in healthcare risk management (CPHRM) and a member of the American Society for Healthcare Risk Management (ASHRM) and an active member in the MD-DC Society of Healthcare Risk Management .

**Christina N. Billiet, Esq.**

*“Nuclear Verdict Update”*

Christina Billiet is a trial attorney and the Managing Partner at Waranch & Brown, LLC, as well as a member of the American Board of Trial Advocates. She has extensive experience defending medical malpractice cases, as well as representing physicians, nurses and other health care providers in a variety of Board of Physician, guardianship and hospital privileging matters. Ms. Billiet has successfully tried cases in the District and Circuit Courts of Maryland, as well as the United States District Court for the District of Maryland. She has acted as lead counsel at trial, obtaining defense verdicts in several multimillion-dollar cases.

Ms. Billiet received her Bachelor of Arts degree from the University of Maryland Honors Program, where she majored in philosophy. She went on to obtain a law degree from the University of Baltimore School of Law. There, Ms. Billiet was a member of several moot court teams, including the National Trial Competition team.

Ms. Billiet is a member of the Maryland State Bar Association, the DC Bar Association, the Baltimore County and Baltimore City Bar Associations, the Maryland Defense Counsel and the MD-DC Society for Healthcare Risk Management.

Additionally, Ms. Billiet serves as a volunteer attorney for the Maryland Volunteer Lawyer Association, handling a variety of pro bono cases each year. She also serves as Chair of Waranch & Brown’s pro bono committee. On a more personal level, Ms. Billiet is Past President of the Board of Directors for the Family Crisis Center of Baltimore County, a non-profit organization dedicated to providing comprehensive services to families experiencing conflict and violence.

Ms. Billiet has co-authored several articles for legal publications, including Sometimes “Blind” is Better!, published in The Defense Line in 2014, and Don’t Take Their Word For It — Attack The Plaintiffs’ Expert,

published in The Defense Line in 2011. She has given Grand Rounds and claims committee presentations, as well as other professional lectures.

Ms. Billiet has been selected as a “Rising Star” by Maryland Super Lawyers every year since 2013.

**Daniel Costello, Esq.**

*“Nuclear Verdict Update”*

Mr. Costello is a shareholder in the Firm who practices primarily in the area of medical and professional malpractice defense. He has extensive experience in the defense of health care providers and hospitals throughout the State and Federal Courts of Maryland, the District of Columbia, and Northern Virginia. He lectures regularly to physician groups and hospitals on issues involving professional liability, risk management, and claims avoidance.

The D.C. Defense Lawyers' Association named Mr. Costello "Lawyer of the Year" in 2017.

After graduating with honors from the University of Maryland in 1987, Mr. Costello attended the University of Maryland School of Law, where he obtained his JD Degree, with honor, in 1990. He thereafter clerked for the Honorable Theodore G. Bloom of the Court of Special Appeals of Maryland (now the Appellate Court of Maryland). Following his clerkship, Mr. Costello joined Wharton Levin Ehrmantraut & Klein as an associate and was named a shareholder in 1998.

Mr. Costello is licensed to practice law in the State and Federal Courts of Maryland, the District of Columbia, and Virginia. He is also admitted to the Bars of the United States Court of Appeals for the Fourth Circuit, the United States Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia Circuit, the United States District Court for the District of Maryland, the United States District Court for the District of Columbia, and the United States District Court for the Eastern District of Virginia.

Mr. Costello is a member of the American Board of Trial Advocates, the American Academy of Medical Experts (Justice Fellow), the Maryland State Bar Association, the District of Columbia Bar, the District of Columbia Defense Lawyers Association, the Virginia State Bar, and the Anne Arundel County Bar. He is also a member of the Attorney Grievance Commission of Maryland, Peer Review Committee.

Mr. Costello is AV® Peer Review Rated in Martindale-Hubbell.

**Timothy Fisher, Esq.**

*“Nuclear Verdict Update”*

Mr. Fisher is a Firm Shareholder whose practice concentrates on the defense of health care professionals in medical malpractice claims. Mr. Fisher’s litigation experience involves all phases of fact and expert discovery, motions practice, defending and deposing expert witnesses, and bench and jury trials in Maryland, Virginia and the District of Columbia. His practice also includes the representation of health care professionals before

licensing and administrative boards. Mr. Fisher has also successfully briefed and argued appeals in the appellate courts of Maryland and the District of Columbia.

After graduating from Loyola University Maryland in 2002, Mr. Fisher attended the University of Baltimore School of Law, where he obtained his J.D. degree in 2005, with honors. Shortly after graduating law school, Mr. Fisher clerked for the Honorable Durke G. Thompson in the Circuit Court for Montgomery County, Maryland. After his clerkship, he worked for an insurance defense firm in Rockville, Maryland, primarily handling the defense of cases involving personal injury and construction defects. Mr. Fisher then became an Assistant Attorney General with the Medicaid Fraud Control Unit in the Maryland Office of the Attorney General prior to joining Wharton Levin in 2012.

Mr. Fisher is admitted to the Bars of the United States Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia Circuit, the United States District Court for the District of Maryland, the United States District Court for the District of Columbia, and the United States District Court for the Eastern District of Virginia. In addition, Mr. Fisher is a member of the Maryland State Bar, the District of Columbia Bar, the Virginia State Bar, and the D.C. Defense Lawyers' Association. He is an elected member of the Maryland chapter of the American Board of Trial Advocates.