

# **Workers Comp Outlook:**

Indicators, Issues, and Industry Success

Stephen J. Klingel, CPCU, WCP



2015 Annual Issues Symposium

#### **OPENING REMARKS**

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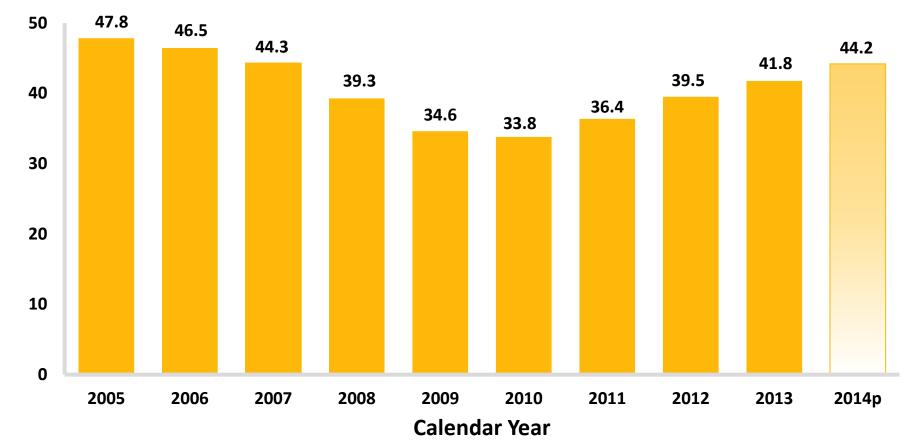
#### My Agenda

- Top Line Numbers
- Flash Forward
  - Economy
  - Evolving Workplace
  - ✓ Basic Principles Under Attack
- Defining the Market Condition



#### Workers Compensation Total Market Net Written Premium

\$ Billions



p Preliminary

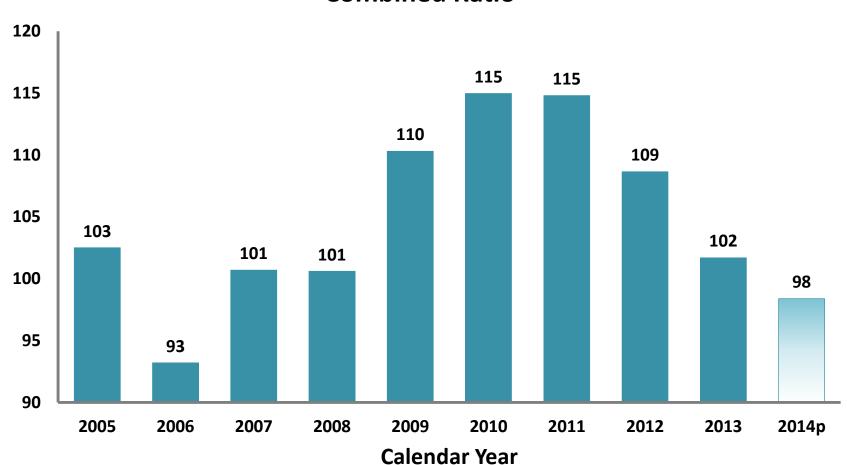
Includes state insurance fund data for the following states: AZ, CA, CO, HI, ID, KY, LA, MD, MO, MT, NM, OK, OR, RI, TX, and UT Each calendar year total for state funds includes all funds operating as a state fund in that year Source: Annual Statement data



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#### Workers Compensation Underwriting Results Improved Again

**Combined Ratio** 



p Preliminary Includes private carrier data Source: Annual Statement data

Percent

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#### **Top Line Industry Numbers**

- Premium >5%
- Combined Ratio 98%
- Claims Frequency Decreased



#### Flash Forward—Issues on the Horizon

#### ✓ Economy

- Evolving Workplace
- ✓ Basic Principles Under Attack



#### **The Economic Outlook**

- Many Positive Signs
  - Employment increasing
  - Stock market recovered
  - Low inflation
- Strong Dollar May be a Concern



#### What to Watch For

- Continued Volatility
- Focus on the Fed
  - Real inflationary pressure?
  - Rate increases beginning when?



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#### It's an Evolving Workforce (and Workplace)

- Who's an Employee?
- Mobile Workspaces
- What's Next?





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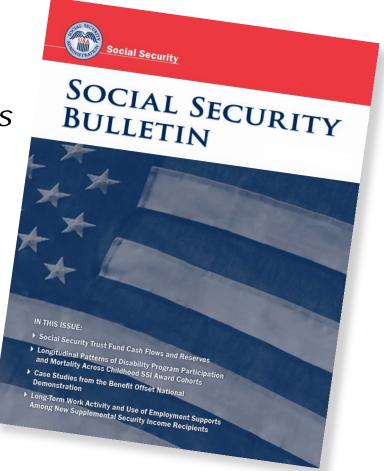
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#### **Fundamental Principle of Workers Comp**

"The basic principle underlying workers' compensation programs was that benefits would be provided to injured workers without regard to fault and, in return, employers would face limited liability."



Ann Clayton, Social Security Bulletin, Vol. 65, No. 4, 2003/2004



#### **Basic Principles Under Fire**

- Press Reports
- OSHA Report
- Court Cases
  - Florida—Padgett v. State of Florida
  - Florida—Westphal v. The City of St. Petersburg
  - Oklahoma—Duck v. Morgan Tire & Auto, LLC



#### **Current Responses**

- Plenty of industry pundits have defended the workers comp system over the past few months
- The court cases may not stand
- Comp has worked well for more than 100 years
- What's the problem?



#### Perception Can Turn to Action Quickly

- Legislative Responses
- Call for National Action
- Will We Learn from Past Lessons?



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#### **Defining the Market Condition**

- Top Line Numbers Look Solid
- Economic Recovery Continuing (Albeit Slowly)
- Workplaces are Changing Rapidly
- Benefit Challenges on the Rise



# Calm...

# but Turbulence ahead

#### **Turbulence Ahead**

- System Under Attack From All Sides
- Continuing Challenges to Exclusive Remedy
- Benefit Increases Without Rate Increases?
- New National Commission on Workers Comp?
- Rapidly Evolving Workforce/Workplace





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