

Inaugural SIU Simmons Law School Springfield Free CLE Bios

1. Implementing Trauma-Informed Interviewing: Practical Strategies for Legal Success and Survivor Support

- a. Dr. Abigail Bilderback, is a licensed clinical psychologist and certified clinical trauma professional with over 20 years of clinical experience. Her specialized expertise in trauma-informed care allows her to address complex psychological and emotional challenges. Dr. Bilderback's approach is evidence-based and deeply empathetic, rooted in her belief that every individual deserves compassionate, personalized care on their path to recovery.

In addition to her clinical practice, Dr. Bilderback is a dedicated educator at the Southern Illinois University (SIU) School of Medicine. In this role, she shares her wealth of knowledge with future healthcare professionals, equipping them with the skills to integrate psychological insights into medical practice. Her commitment to both teaching and clinical work underscores her passion for improving mental health care on both individual and systemic levels.

Dr. Bilderback has worked in diverse clinical settings, including rape crisis centers, domestic violence shelters, hospitals, outpatient clinics, and a university counseling center. Her certifications and experience make her a trusted professional in the field, known for her ability to offer both immediate relief and long-term solutions.

2. Understanding Common Personal Injuries: Anatomy and Treatment.

- a. Dr. James Lynch, SIUMED
 - i. James "Mick" Lynch graduated from the University of Missouri School of Medicine in 1984. He completed a Family Medicine residency and was chief resident at the University of Kentucky in 1987, going on to a Primary Care Sports Medicine fellowship at the American Sports Medicine Institute in Birmingham Alabama. He joined the faculty of the Southern Illinois University School of Medicine as the Year One Doctoring Director in the fall of 2021.
- b. Brandy Johnson, SIU Simmons Law School
 - i. Brandy L. Johnson is an Assistant Professor at Southern Illinois University Simmons Law School. She teaches Disability Law, Torts, Workers' Compensation, and Medical Malpractice. Professor Johnson also serves as "Of Counsel" for Early & Miranda, P.C. Prior to joining

the faculty as an Associate Law Professor in the Fall of 2023, Professor Johnson was an adjunct member of SIU School of Law's faculty and a senior partner at Early & Miranda, P.C.

Professor Johnson graduated from Southern Illinois University Carbondale in 2000 with a Bachelor of Arts in Political Science with a minor in the Administration of Justice. She received her Juris Doctorate, magnum cum laude, from Southern Illinois University School of Law in 2003. Professor Johnson was admitted to practice law in Illinois in 2003 and in Missouri in 2004. In 2017, she received an AV Preeminent rating from Martindale-Hubbell. While she mainly specialized in Illinois and Missouri workers' compensation law and appellate advocacy, Professor Johnson also gained experience in premises liability, personal injury, products liability, as well as other areas of insurance defense over her 20 years of practice.

Professor Johnson has published in the Journal of Legal Medicine, the Journal of Health Law, the Hematology Oncology Clinics of North America Health Law and Policy, the Encyclopedia of Women's Health, the Encyclopedia of Aging and Public Health, the Missouri Medical Law Report, the Encyclopedia of Immigrant Health, Public Risk Magazine, the HIV/AIDS Desk Reference for Mental Health Professionals, the Illinois State Bar Association's Diversity Matters newsletter, Forensic Epidemiology in the Global Context, Diversity, Cultural Humility, the Helping Professions, and Workers' Compensation Practice. She also serves on the board of the Illinois Chapter of the United Spinal Association and is currently the Chair of the Illinois State Bar Association's Standing Committee for Disability Law.

3. Legal Services for Health Care Businesses-Why the Same Rule Don't Apply

a. Christina Kuta

- i. Christina Kuta is a Shareholder with Roetzel and Andress in Chicago, Beginning her legal education with the goal of becoming a practicing healthcare attorney, Christina is privileged to concentrate her practice in this area of law. She focuses her practice in the areas of regulatory and transactional health care, with experience representing physicians and healthcare providers and organizations with a broad

spectrum of regulatory and transactional matters, including negotiating and documenting transactions, acquisitions, mergers and sales, joint ventures, integrated delivery systems and other combinations and alliances, employment agreements, recruitment and support agreements, bonus and incentive plans, managed care contracts, physician-hospital organizations, management and other commercial and services agreements and leases for space and equipment, as well as shared overhead arrangements. Christina routinely provides advice on complex healthcare regulations impacting health care providers and entities, including the Stark Law, Anti-Kickback, Illinois Medical Practice Act, False Claims Act, HIPAA, state self-referral and kickback laws.

In addition, Christina advises clients on compliance with Medicare/Medicaid regulations, such as conditions of participation, coverage, billing, payment, reimbursement, reassignment and supervision. In this regard, she has represented a number of clients with respect to both government and private audits and investigations, successfully defeating audit and recoupment actions, as well as negotiating favorable settlements. Client representations also include representing clients at hearings before federal and state agencies related to licensure, DEA registration and revocation of provider enrollment.

Christina is an adjunct professor of law at DePaul University College of Law where she has taught a class on Healthcare Fraud and Abuse. She is also a member of the Roetzel & Andress Diversity & Inclusion Committee.

4. Government Relations/Affairs: A Tale on how to Make Friends and Influence Democracy.

- a. Michael Morthland is a Senior Vice President at Mercury's Illinois office where he specializes in government and public affairs. Michael Morthland joined Mercury's Illinois office after spending nearly a decade at top levels of Illinois Executive and Legislative Government.

As Assistant Counsel to the Speaker of the House of Representatives, Michael was charged with writing, negotiating and defending bills through the

legislative process including on complicated and sensitive subjects of labor, pharmacy benefit managers and prescription drug supply chain, insurance, \$15 minimum wage, environment and energy, and transportation and infrastructure.

In 2020, Michael joined the Governor Pritzker Administration as Chief of Staff at the Illinois Department of Financial and Professional Regulation. While at IDFP, Michael composed strategies around building the new adult use cannabis infrastructure, fintech oversight and regulation, communications, and professional regulation. During the COVID-19 pandemic in 2022, Michael joined the Department of Public Health as Deputy Chief of Staff. As the Deputy Chief, Michael oversaw efforts around strategic building and communications, government relations, crisis management and communication, medical cannabis, workforce development, strategic procurement, and systems management and construction.

Prior to joining government, Michael obtained his JD from Southern Illinois University—Carbondale. While in Carbondale, Michael specialized in Constitutional Law and Intellectual Property, assisted students as a Teaching Assistant for Constitutional Law and Administrative Processes, was a member of the Journal of Legal Medicine, and played in the SIUC Symphony Orchestra.

Before obtaining his Juris Doctorate, Michael attended the University of Illinois—Urbana-Champaign where he graduated with his Bachelor in Music, specializing as an orchestral performer as a bassoonist, with piano as a secondary instrument. In addition, Michael was a member of Sigma Alpha Epsilon fraternity acting as its president and rebuilding the fraternity. Michael is married to Kathryn, who he met in Legislative and Administrative Processes while at Carbondale and father to Walter Everett Morthland. They currently reside outside Springfield.

5. Civility: Issues in the Profession

- a. Rachel Miller is a Litigation Counsel with the Attorney Registration and Disciplinary Commission in Springfield. Prior to the ARDC, she worked at Land of Lincoln Legal Aid as a Staff Attorney and practiced in the areas of family law, landlord-tenant issues, and developed a medical-legal partnership with a local medical facility. She also served as an Assistant

Inspector General with the Office of the Executive Inspector General and investigated violations of state ethics rules. She received a Bachelor of Arts from the University of Florida in 2009 and a JD Saint Louis University School of Law in 2012.