



Matthew B. Walker • Partner, Chicago Illinois

After completing his term of service with the United States Army's 24th Infantry Division, Matt earned his undergraduate degree from the University of Illinois at Chicago, followed by a law degree from The John Marshall Law School. A partner in the firm's workers' compensation practice, Matt focuses on protecting the rights of injured workers throughout the State of Illinois. He has argued cases before the Illinois Workers' Compensation Commission, Circuit Courts and the Illinois Appellate Court. Matt also represents clients before the Social Security Administration's Office of Disability Adjudication and Review. He is also certified by the American Association of Disability Evaluating Physicians in the use of the AMA Guides to the Evaluation of Permanent Impairment (CEDIR).

Matt has obtained numerous decisions and settlements on behalf of injured workers, including the following:

- \$496,000.00 for a union meat cutter who required a joint replacement in his right middle finger, followed by vocational rehabilitation and job placement. In addition to the settlement, Matt's client was also paid \$93,000.00 for future medical expenses related to his injury.
- \$300,000.00 for a union laborer who suffered a back injury that required surgical intervention followed by vocational rehabilitation and job placement.
- \$300,000.00 for a union electrician who fractured his foot and required permanent restrictions.
- \$299,000.00 for a union sheet metal worker who suffered decreased lung capacity resulting from exposure to hazardous materials in the workplace.
- \$225,000.00 for a truck driver who underwent shoulder surgery, followed by vocational rehabilitation and job placement.
- \$225,000.00 for a union laborer who sustained a closed head injury requiring permanent restrictions.
- \$220,000.00 for a union laborer whose injury kept him from returning to his trade.
- \$200,000.00 for an undocumented, immigrant worker who injured his back and was unable to return to the trades.
- \$181,595.69 for an undocumented, immigrant worker who suffered a broken leg in a fall while working for a construction company. The Arbitrator's award included \$69,500.91 in fees and penalties against the employer for unreasonable and vexatious denial of benefits.
- \$175,000.00 for a maintenance worker who sustained a knee injury resulting in permanent restrictions.
- \$150,000.00 for an injured worker who suffered nerve damage to her upper extremities as a result of repetitive work activities.
- \$150,000.00 for a union assembler whose injuries resulted in permanent restrictions and vocational rehabilitation.
- \$145,000.00 for a casino worker who injured his back, and required permanent restrictions.
- \$130,000.00 for a union welder whose foot injury necessitated permanent restrictions and job placement assistance.
- \$100,000.00 for an immigrant worker who injured her leg when she fell in the course and scope of her employment.

O'Connor & Nakos, Ltd.

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O'CONNOR & NAKOS
ATTORNEYS AT LAW

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Recent Appellate Court Decisions:

- Caterpillar v. Illinois Workers' Compensation Commission (Richard Petoskey, Appellee), No. 2-10-0756WC (Ill. App. 2d. Jun 22, 2011)

Recent Commission Decisions:

- Castaneda v. Graphic Packaging, 11 IWCC 1147 (November 18, 2011)
- Slouf v. Caterpillar, Inc., 11 IWCC 0921 (September 16, 2011)
- Collette v. Walmart Supercenter, 11 IWCC 0154 (February 26, 2011)

Bar Admissions:

- State of Illinois
- U.S. District Court of Northern Illinois

Education:

- The John Marshall Law School, Chicago, Illinois
- The University of Illinois at Chicago

Certifications

- AADEP – CEDIR (Certification in Evaluation of Disability and Impairment Rating)

Professional Associations and Memberships:

- American Bar Association, Section of Labor & Employment Law
- Illinois State Bar Association
- Illinois Trial Lawyers Association
- Illinois Workers' Compensation Lawyers Association
- Kane County Bar Association

Community Activities:

- Elected Precinct Committeeman, Kendall County Republican Central Committee, Kendall County, Illinois.
- Officer, Knights of Columbus Oswego Council #7247
- Volunteer Attorney, Administer Justice

Languages:

- Spanish

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