

Injured Worker Award

Carolyn Arambula

Carolyn is an injured worker, risk manager's wife, bereaved mother of a brain-injured daughter and tireless volunteer advocate.

In 2002, she incorporated the Center for Injured Workers, an organization dedicated to training and educating injured workers so they can successfully navigate the complex Texas workers Compensation Act. Carolyn does not draw a salary for her work with the center.

As a Comp Laude® Award recipient, she emphasizes the importance of treating workers with "dignity, equity and respect," especially when they are sidelined by an injury. Carolyn said she understands how untreated injuries can shatter lives. When one of her daughters sustained a traumatic head injury at work, she observed how delay and denial of medical treatment contributed to pain, headaches and impaired functioning, eventually resulting in suicide. And when Carolyn experienced a work-related injury, she believes she was subjected to surveillance, violation of privacy, suspected home intrusion and property damage, which she reported to local police and the FBI.

Carolyn began her advocacy journey in 1995 when she registered the Center for Injured Workers as a business entity. In 1999, she became executive director of another group, United Injured Workers, and developed protocols for workers to more easily obtain approval for indemnity and medical workers compensation benefits. In her role, Carolyn spoke on behalf of injured workers before the Texas Senate and Texas workers Compensation Commission, where she influenced the development and enactment of administrative rules.

After Texas enacted the 2000 workers Compensation Act, Carolyn participated in workers compensation stakeholders meetings and continued to push for injured workers rights. Since incorporating the Center for Injured Workers, she has formed a network of health care providers and attorneys to further facilitate injured workers ability to obtain workers compensation benefits.

She is a former top-ranking corporate human resource executive. A popular speaker and trainer, she remains active in numerous professional organizations.

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