

# THE PLEDGE

*WORKING TOGETHER FOR A SAFER, STRONGER FUTURE*  
*March 2026 Chapter Newsletter (Volume 12, Issue 3)*



AMERICAN SOCIETY OF  
**SAFETY PROFESSIONALS**

Bakersfield Chapter

## Chapter Recognition



PLATINUM LEVEL CHAPTER  
2023-2024



PLATINUM LEVEL CHAPTER  
2022-2023



PLATINUM LEVEL CHAPTER  
2021-2022



PLATINUM LEVEL CHAPTER  
2020-2021



GOLD LEVEL CHAPTER  
2019-2020



PLATINUM LEVEL CHAPTER  
2018-2019



PLATINUM LEVEL CHAPTER  
2017-2018



PLATINUM LEVEL CHAPTER  
2016-2017



GOLD LEVEL CHAPTER  
2015-2016



GOLD LEVEL CHAPTER  
2014-2015



GOLD LEVEL CHAPTER  
2013-2014



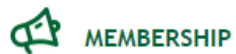
GOLD LEVEL CHAPTER  
2012-2013

# ASSP Membership is incredibly valuable!



ASSP Membership is incredibly valuable! As a member, you will elevate your career, gain knowledge, tools, and resources to prevent worker injuries, illnesses and fatalities, help improve your company's performance, and become part of a vibrant community of over 40,000 safety professionals working together for a safer, stronger future. Complete the membership application at [ASSP.org](https://www.assp.org).

***Use the coupon code 2512BAKERSFIELD and the \$25 application fee is waived!***



Announcements

## [Online ASSP Community](#) →

Our exclusive online member community connects you with great resources and great people to help you grow professionally and engage with colleagues on a global scale.

## [Build Your Leadership Skills](#) →

Serving on an ASSP committee is a great way to build new skills, meet new contacts and make a difference in the OSH profession. We have opportunities in member communities, education, standards and advocacy areas.

## 2026 Bakersfield ASSP Symposium

We are just a few weeks away from the Bakersfield ASSP Professional Development Symposium, and we hope you'll join us for a day focused on strengthening safety leadership and professional development in our region. This year's program brings together safety & health professionals, HR and risk leaders, public sector representatives, and education & training professionals for practical learning and meaningful connection.

In addition to our keynote presentation, breakout sessions will cover – building sustainable safety management systems, regulatory guidance and compliance insights, practical strategies for strengthening safety culture, risk reduction and program improvement, and leadership development for safety professionals.

Wednesday March 18th, 2026 @ Dignity Health Convention Center, Bakersfield, CA

Secure your seat and be part of this important regional event!

Register today – [2026 Bakersfield ASSP Symposium](#)

**The Nominations Committee proudly announces the nominees for election to the 2026-2027 Chapter Executive Committee. Chapter elections will take place at the monthly Chapter meeting on May 6, 2026.**

\*Per chapter by-laws, any fifteen (15) chapter members may submit a signed petition nominating one or more individuals for elective office. The petition shall be accompanied by a written acceptance by the nominee(s) and shall be submitted to the chairperson of the nominations and elections committee 30 days in advance of the election. The name and qualifications of such nominees shall be published and distributed to the membership at least 15 days prior to the election.



AMERICAN SOCIETY OF  
**SAFETY PROFESSIONALS**

Bakersfield Chapter

# **Nominees for Election 2026-2027**

---

**President – Jason Kibbey**

**President-Elect – Lisa Marriott-Smith**

**Secretary – Michael Martinez**

**Treasurer – Javier Gonzalez**

**Advisory Group Members – Michael Garcia & Albert Lopez**

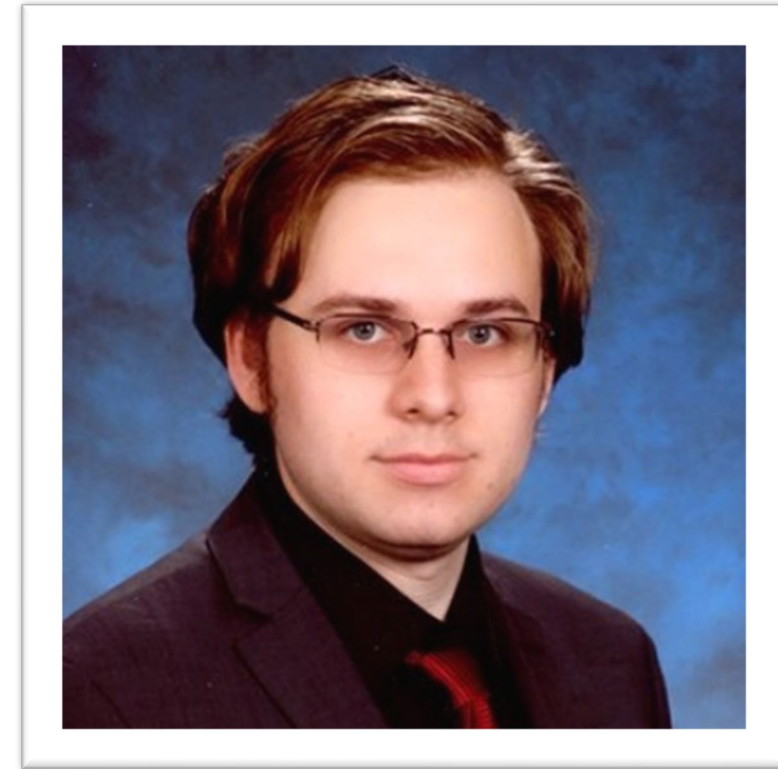
# ***March 4, 2026 Chapter Meeting***

***Louis Jameson, Deputy District Attorney  
Kern County Deputy District Attorney's Office***

***Fraud! Workers' Compensation, Auto, Disability, and  
Healthcare***

During this monthly meeting, Mr. Jameson will discuss workers' compensation fraud, auto fraud, disability fraud, and healthcare fraud.

*Louis Jameson is a Deputy District Attorney at the Kern County District Attorney's office. He attended law school at Chapman University in Orange County. He passed the California State Bar in 2022, and working at the District Attorney's office was his first job out of law school. He has been working as a prosecutor since January of 2023. He currently works in the White-Collar crime unit where he prosecutes a variety of cases including workers' compensation fraud, auto insurance fraud, welfare fraud, and much more.*



**Attend in person at Hodel's (7:00AM-8:45AM).**

**Zoom option [available](#) for January, April, July, and October meetings.**

# ***April 1, 2026 Chapter Meeting***

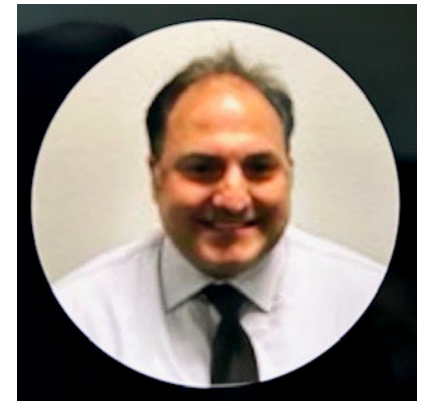
***David Ungar, Attorney @ The Zenith Insurance***

## ***Navigating the Maze: Cumulative Trauma & The "Capper" Conundrum***

Cumulative trauma (CT) claims are among the most complex and costly challenges in the workers' compensation system. These "slow-motion" injuries often involve intricate legal maneuvers and the influence of third-party "cappers" who can inflate claim frequency and severity. In this focused session, Mr. Ungar will break down the legal anatomy of CT cases. Attendees will learn high-level strategies to identify red flags early, mitigate exposure, and implement best practices to protect their organization from predatory litigation tactics. Key Takeaways: Understanding how cumulative trauma claims differ from specific injuries in a legal context; identifying the role of third-party "cappers" and how to spot suspicious claim patterns; best practices for documentation and early intervention to prevent CT cases from escalating; and a brief look at current California case law impacting how these claims are litigated and settled.

**TheZenith<sup>®</sup>**

A FAIRFAX Company



## New Chapter Members

- Juan Gonzales – Bakersfield College
- Justin Thompson – Centre for Neuro Skills
- James Landeros – Montrose Environmental
- Miguel Roman – CSUB Student Member
- Justin Arias – Kern County Human Services
- Miguel Roman – CSUB Student Member
- Trey Jamar – City of Bakersfield



## Professional Development

- Austin Witt with Safety Management Systems completed the requirements to become a Certified Safety Professional.
- Isidro Ramirez with Olam Food Ingredients was recognized as the 2026 Outstanding Safety Professional of the Year at the 2026 AgSafe Conference.



# MEMBERS UPDATES IN OUR BAKERSFIELD CHAPTER

# OSHA CARES Posters

The OSHA Job Safety and Health Workplace Poster tells workers their rights under the Occupational Safety and Health Act.

OSHA wants every worker to know that OSHA cares about their wellbeing and is here to help ensure that they go home safe — whether by addressing concerns, providing resources, or offering compliance assistance to employers. Posters can be downloaded or ordered through their website. This poster is free from OSHA, so do not pay a third party for it. Note: Employers may choose to use this new version or continue using the prior version they already have on display.

[OSHA's Free Workplace Poster | Occupational Safety and Health Administration](#)

**OSHA CARES**

As an employee, you have the right to:

- A safe workplace
- Speak up about safety and health concerns without retaliation
- Report an injury or illness
- Training in a manner you understand
- Be provided required safety equipment
- Request an OSHA inspection and speak with the inspector
- File a complaint with OSHA about workplace hazards
- Free safety and compliance assistance from OSHA at any time

**THAT YOU  
GO HOME SAFE**

Call us at 800-321-OSHA  
or visit [OSHA.gov/workers](https://www.osha.gov/workers)



OSHA 3965-G2R 2026



**OSHA SE  
PREOCUPA POR  
SU SEGURIDAD**

Como empleado, tiene el derecho a:

- Un lugar de trabajo seguro
- Hablar sobre preocupaciones de seguridad y salud sin represalias
- Reportar una lesión o enfermedad
- Recibir capacitación de una manera que entienda
- Que le proporcionen el equipo de seguridad requerido
- Solicitar una inspección de OSHA y hablar con el inspector
- Presentar una queja a OSHA sobre peligros en el lugar de trabajo
- Asistencia gratuita en materia de seguridad y cumplimiento por parte de OSHA en cualquier momento

**PARA QUE VUELVA  
A CASA SEGURO**

Llame al 800-321-OSHA o  
visite [OSHA.gov/workers](https://www.osha.gov/workers)



OSHA 3967-G2R 2026 - Spanish

# OSHA QuickTakes

QuickTakes DYK?  
English/ Español



The [Safety Champions Program](#) is a new program for employers to develop and implement an effective safety and health program. The main goal of safety and health programs is to prevent workplace injuries, illnesses, and deaths.

The program incorporates the seven core elements of [Recommended Practices for Safety and Health Programs](#).

Watch this [short video](#) to learn about OSHA's new Safety Champions Program that meets employers where they are and helps them strengthen their safety culture.

## News, Information, and Resources from ASSP

- [What is the ASSP Membership Advantage](#) – Maximizing the value of your ASSP membership starts with understanding your benefits. Learn how to access our community, exclusive content, savings, and development opportunities for every stage of your safety career.
- [The Safety Buy-In Blueprint](#) – The regulatory landscape is changing. Tech is evolving. Staying ahead means more than just checking boxes. Whether you're responsible for safety, compliance, audit, or governance, having a framework that's clear, actionable, and aligned with business objectives is key. That's why ASSP created the guide to give you practical steps, insights, and tools so you can confidently lead and protect your organization.
- [Government Affairs](#) – Find the latest news on occupational safety and health legislation and regulation as well as updates on our member-driven initiatives to ensure that safety professionals are part of the conversation.
- [Alliances & Affiliations](#) – ASSP collaborates with key stakeholders in safety, research, sustainability, and human capital to advance safety in the workplace.



# A Little About ASSP

ASSP publishes the [Professional Safety Journal](#): a flagship monthly journal and top member benefit covering the latest safety management and injury prevention trends.

Our more than 40,000 members are dedicated to making their workplaces safer and healthier, and the Bakersfield Chapter shares in their commitment.

ASSP members create safer work environments by preventing workplace fatalities, injuries and illnesses. Safer organizations enjoy increased productivity, higher employee satisfaction, and a better reputation while recording less lost time, and lower workers' compensation and healthcare costs.

If you are looking for job postings, find current opportunities shared with the Chapter on the [Chapter website](#).

You can find Chapter Documents, Member Updates, Newsletters, and Presentations on our [Chapter Library page](#).

Is your company looking for a qualified safety professional? Contact [Chris Vochoska](#) to have the opening sent via email to our members and mailing list.

For comments or suggestions on ways we can improve this newsletter, please contact [Dave Lee](#).



AMERICAN SOCIETY OF  
**SAFETY PROFESSIONALS**

Bakersfield Chapter

