

California Department of Insurance

Public Hearing on Autonomous Vehicle Insurance Issues

Panelist Bios



Matthew Gilbert has been in the insurance industry for 14 years and has spent most of his career at Nationwide Insurance in a variety of roles including Underwriting and Compliance. Currently, he is California Auto Product Manager for Nationwide Insurance in the Sacramento regional office. He holds a bachelor's degree in Business Administration/Finance from California State University, Sacramento.



Richard Holober is the Executive Director of the non-profit Consumer Federation of California. Mr. Holober has worked to implement financial laws, curtail interest group influence, expand health care patient rights, protect the public from defective products and household toxics, reform the California state budget process, create stronger protections against fraudulent sales practices, and curb predatory lending practices. In 2002, Mr. Holober co-founded Californians for Privacy Now. Mr. Holober previously spent over 20 years in leadership positions in the labor movement. Mr. Holober is a graduate of the University of Rochester.



Alain Kornhauser is Professor of Operations Research & Financial Engineering at Princeton University and serves as Director of Princeton's Transportation Program. He was the Faculty Leader of Princeton's entries in the 2005 DARPA Grand Challenge and 2007 Urban Challenge. He is Faculty Chair of Princeton Autonomous Vehicle Engineering (PAVE) and extracurricular undergraduate Smart Driving Car research effort at Princeton, Editor of the Smart Driving Cars Newsletter (www.SmartDrivingCar.com), and Board Chair of the Advanced Transit Association (ATRA). He studied Aerospace Engineering at Penn State where he obtained a BS and MS. He earned a PhD from Princeton's Aerospace and Mechanical Sciences Department in the fall of 1970.



Hilary Rowen is a Partner at Sedwick LLP where she represents property & casualty insurers, health insurers, health plans, and life insurers on a broad spectrum of complex regulatory issues. Prior to joining Sedgwick, Ms. Rowen was a partner in an AmLaw 100 law firm. Previously she served as chief of the Insurance Division for the Department of the Attorney General for the Commonwealth of Massachusetts. During this time, she directed a division of seven lawyers and a PhD economist. Ms. Rowen earned her JD cum laude from Harvard Law School in 1979. She also holds an MPP from Harvard University's John F. Kennedy School of Government and a BA with honors from Stanford University.



Robert Peterson is a Professor of Law at Santa Clara University School of Law. Professor Peterson is Director of Santa Clara Law's Center for Insurance Law and Regulation. He served as Associate Dean for Academic Affairs of Santa Clara Law for five years and is currently the Director of Graduate Legal Programs. In addition, he has spent many summers directing Santa Clara Law's programs in Oxford, Tokyo, and Costa Rica. Peterson also serves as a mediator for the United States District Court. Prior to joining Santa Clara Law in 1970, Professor Peterson was a teaching fellow at the University of Illinois, and taught at Wayne State University Law School in Detroit. He clerked for US District Court Judge Robert F. Peckham in 1968 and earned a Diploma in Law from Oxford University in 1977.

Cathy Schwamberger is an Associate General Counsel for State Farm Mutual Insurance Company in Sacramento, California. Ms. Schwamberger serves as lead attorney for State Farm's legislative and regulatory activities in 10 western states, including California. Ms. Schwamberger graduated magna cum laude from Illinois Wesleyan University in Bloomington, IL with a degree in Business Administration. She attended Loyola University of Chicago's evening law program and graduated cum laude in 1994. At Loyola, Ms. Schwamberger was a member of the law review. She was admitted to the Illinois bar in 1994 and the California bar in 1998. Ms. Schwamberger holds the Certificate in General Insurance and the Chartered Property Casualty Underwriter designation.



Bernard C. Soriano is a Deputy Director for the California Department of Motor Vehicles and is in charge of the department's autonomous vehicles program. He previously held engineering and management positions at Hughes Space and Communications, Inc. in Los Angeles, where he designed satellite attitude control systems and was involved in their launch missions. He was also the Assistant Technical Director at the USGA Research and Test Center in New Jersey. In the public sector, Bernard was the Chief Information Officer for the Office of the Secretary of State and was the information technology task force leader on Governor Schwarzenegger's California Performance Review. Bernard holds a PhD in Engineering from UC Irvine, a MS in Mechanical Engineering from the University of Southern California, and a BS in Mechanical and Aeronautical Engineering from UC Davis. He also holds an MBA from California State University, Sacramento.

Mike Stienstra works at QBE North America in New York. He is a Fellow of the Casualty Actuarial Society (CAS) and a Member of the American Academy of Actuaries. He chairs the CAS's Automated Vehicle Task Force. He received a BBA in Actuarial Science and Mathematics from the University of Wisconsin-Madison and a MBA from the Kellogg School of Management at Northwestern University.