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## **HR/Labor Law and Workers' Comp Bios**

### **Jim Gress Bio:**

James L. Gress graduated from Willamette University in Salem Oregon with a Bachelor's Degree in English in 1988. He then graduated from Willamette University College of Law in 1991. While in law school, he worked as a law clerk for a workers' compensation insurer for two years.

In 1991, Jim passed the Oregon State Bar and joined a firm whose practice was dedicated to representing employers in the field of workers' compensation. He represented employers and insurance companies in Oregon through 1995. He then switched his focus to the state of Washington and passed the Washington State Bar exam in 1996. Since that time he has represented self-insured employers, retro programs and state fund employers before the Department of Labor and Industries, the Board of Industrial Insurance Appeals, multiple Superior Courts, all three Divisions of the Court of Appeals and the Supreme Court. He is also admitted to appear in the Tribal Courts of the Lummi, Tulalip, Yakama, Snohomish, Sauk-Suiattle, Puyallup, Jamestown S'Klallam and Suquamish Tribal Nations. On many occasions Jim has been a guest speaker for the Washington Self Insurers Association meetings and has helped teach classes for claims examiners. In 2007 he founded the Law Office of Gress and Clark LLC with Gordon Clark.

Jim is a native Oregonian and is married to his wife Julie. Outside of the practice of Law, he enjoys travel, roller coasters, watching college sports on television and reminiscing about the days long ago when he too was a college athlete.

### **Aaron Rocke Bio:**

Aaron helps employers, especially those with licensed employees, employ, manage, and lead through sound policies and dignity in the employment relationship so employers can focus on what matters most to them: their people, profit, and purpose. Employment is a highly regulated bond that is complicated with all that makes us human. So, having the right advisor makes a world of difference. With more than twenty years of legal experience, he can customize sound policies and win your bet-the-company litigation.

Aaron focuses on employment law and commercial or business litigation. He frequently advises founders, chief officers, and executive directors on policies, practices, and high-risk decisions with employees. He also resolves disputes arising out of the sale of a business and certain business-to-business disputes.

Mr. Rocke has served communities as a soldier, attorney, judge pro tempore, and mediator. He serves lawyers as their lawyer and faculty for continuing education seminars. He serves law students as professor and instructor, volunteer, and mentor. His clients have prevailed at before, after, and at trial. He has successfully advocated in courts of appeal.