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DWCNewsline

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Division of Workers' Compensation proposes changes to ethics regulations for workers' compensation judges

The Division of Workers' Compensation (DWC) has proposed changes to the ethics regulations governing the conduct of workers' compensation judges. The proposed regulations seek to make more specific the ethical obligations of workers' compensation administrative law judges, and to make the regulations more consistent with the ethical rules applicable to superior court judges.

The proposed regulations are posted on DWC's Web site, and have been forwarded to the Office of Administrative Law for publication in the California Notice Registry. DWC has set a public hearing on the proposed regulations for 10 a.m., Jan. 7, 2008, at the Hiram Johnson state building at 455 Golden Gate Avenue in San Francisco. Members of the public may comment on the proposed regulations until 5 p.m. on that day.

The proposed regulations are mandated by Labor Code sections 123.6. They have been proposed in consultation with the DWC court administrator, and have been reviewed by DWC's workers' compensation ethics advisory committee. The ethics regulations have not been revised since the position of court administrator was created. The proposed changes are found in the California Code of Regulations, Title 8, sections 9720.1 through 9723.

The proposed regulation as filed with the Office of Administrative Law can be found on the DWC Web site at

http://www.dir.ca.gov/dwc/DWCPropRegs/Ethics_Regulations/Ethics_Regulations.htm.

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