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DWCNewsline

Division of Workers' Compensation
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Division of Workers' Compensation announces appointment to workers' compensation ethics advisory committee

Division of Workers' Compensation (DWC) Acting Deputy Administrative Director Destie Overpeck has reappointed Jim Zelco to the workers' compensation ethics advisory committee. The committee, established in 1995 by Title 8, California Code of Regulations, section 9722, reviews all complaints from the public which allege violations of the California Code of Judicial Ethics by workers' compensation administrative law judges.

“This committee helps ensure public confidence in the ethical standards of California’s workers' compensation system,” said Overpeck. “New complaints have decreased from 42 in 2006 to 25 in 2008.”

Zelco’s new term will commence Sept. 1, 2009, prior to the committee’s Sept. 14 meeting. There are no vacancies on the nine-member committee.

After its review of complaints, the committee makes recommendations to the administrative director and the DWC court administrator. The committee reviews all complaints anonymously and does not learn the names of either the complainant or the judge complained against. The committee meets quarterly and members serve four year terms without compensation.

The committee mix includes: a member of the public representing organized labor; a member of the public representing insurers; a member of the public representing self-insured employers; an attorney who formerly practiced before the Workers' Compensation Appeals Board and who usually represented insurers or employers; an attorney who formerly practiced before the Workers' Compensation Appeals Board and who usually represented applicants; a presiding judge; a workers' compensation administrative law judge (WCALJ) or retired WCALJ; and two members of the public outside the workers' compensation community.

Zelco has been reappointed to the position on the committee designated for a member of the public representing self-insured employers.

A judicial ethics complaint form and instructions can be found at <http://www.dir.ca.gov/dwc/ethform.pdf>.

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