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DWCNewsline

Division of Workers' Compensation
Rosa Moran, Administrative Director

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Richard L. Newman appointed acting chief judge for Division of Workers' Compensation

The Division of Workers' Compensation (DWC) is pleased to announce that Administrative Director Rosa Moran has selected Richard L. Newman as acting chief judge, beginning Sept. 6, 2011. As chief judge Newman will work closely with the administrative director (AD), the regional managers and presiding judges to oversee the workflow of workers' compensation administrative law judges at all the local Workers' Compensation Appeals Board offices. He will establish and monitor procedures for effective calendar management, participate in the planning and implementation of policies, budgets, staffing and other operational activities, and be responsible for bringing instances of exception to uniform interpretation and application of laws and policies to the attention of the Workers' Compensation Appeals Board, among other duties.

"Richard brings 20 years of valuable experience with DWC to this role," said Christine Baker, acting director of the Department of Industrial Relations, DWC's parent agency. "With his depth of knowledge of the workers' compensation system, Richard is the right choice to help bring about a system that is more accessible for both injured workers as well as employers."

Prior to this appointment Newman served as the presiding judge in San Francisco since 2009 and was a workers' compensation administrative law judge for 14 years. Newman also served as lead counsel to the AD from 1991-1995.

"Richard understands the workers' compensation court system from the inside out," said Moran. "He's also experienced with the big picture issues related to policy and regulations, so I'm very happy to have the opportunity to work closely with him on the issues affecting those who use our services."

Newman received his Bachelor of Science degree from Antioch College in 1974 and his law degree from the University of California, Hastings College of Law in 1981. Prior to his tenure with the DWC, Newman was a partner with Jewel and Leary in Oakland and worked as trial counsel for the U.S. Department of Labor Office of the Solicitor.

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