

Help Wanted – Judges in PMC and WPB Statewide Nominating Commission to Meet March 21, 2016

The Statewide Nominating Commission for Judges of Compensation Claims (SNCJCC) announces that it will meet on Monday, March 21, 2016 at 9:00 a.m. at the Hyatt Regency Orlando International Airport, 9300 Jeff Fuqua Blvd, Orlando, Florida, USA 32827, to interview prospective applicants/candidates for nomination as Judge of Compensation Claims (JCC) for the Panama City Beach (PMC) District, to replace Judge Laura Roesch and for the West Palm Beach (WPB) District, to replace Judge Shelley Punancy, upon respective retirements. (Terms to commence upon gubernatorial appointment; anticipated spring of 2016). Full Notice is attached. This **DEADLINE IS NEXT WEEK! – February 25, 2016**

West Palm Beach Process Changes in March

We again congratulate Judge Punancy on her retirement from the OJCC, effective March 13, 2016. She has served there for 16 years! Effective March 14, 2016, Final Hearings, Evidentiary Hearings related to pre-trial issues and Attorney Fee Hearings for cases assigned to Judge Punancy's division will be reassigned by Judge Langham. This will generally occur 14-21 days in advance of the hearing date to hopefully prevent moving some cases that resolve prior to trial. Mediations will continue to be conducted as normal in WPB. Settlements and motions, stipulations and evidentiary hearings on motions for advance, motions to enforce settlement or motions to dismiss on cases that are not reassigned for trial will be considered and ruled upon by Judge Basquill (for claimant's with last name beginning with A-M) and Judge D'Ambrosio (for claimant's with last name beginning with N-Z). Questions regarding order status, however, should still be directed to Judge Punancy's staff.

Reiterating Panama City Process Changes

We congratulate Judge Roesch on her retirement from the OJCC. She was first appointed by Governor Bush in 2001 and has served almost fifteen years. She is only the second JCC to serve in Panama City District. We congratulate her on her service and achievement. Effective February 1, 2016, trials for cases assigned to Panama City will be reassigned by Judge Langham. This will generally occur 7-21 days in advance of the hearing date to hopefully prevent moving some cases that resolve prior to trial. Mr. Oramas remains in PMC and will be conducting mediations. Settlements and motions and stipulations on cases that are not reassigned for trial will be considered and ruled upon by Judge Winn in Pensacola. Questions regarding order status, however, should still be directed to the PMC staff.

News for 2016 from the Division

The Division of Insurance Fraud has released [a new report this year](#). The Division of Workers' Compensation has proposed changes to [rule 69L-22 regarding re-employment services](#).

The New Maximum Compensation Rate for 2016 is \$863.00; details [here](#).

2016 Legislative Session

The Florida Legislature usually convenes in March for its annual session. This year session began January 12, 2016. The adjournment is scheduled for March 11, 2016. A search in December returned 32 filed bills that mention workers' compensation; an early January search returned 43 bills; A search the last week of January returned 78 bills. A search this week returned 61 bills. Visit www.flsenate.gov or www.myfloridahouse.gov to search bills.

Mark Your Calendar

Workers' Compensation Section Winter Seminar, February 21-25, 2016.

Space Coast Community Law School, March 3, 2016 (judge Dietz, Daniel P. Faherty and Michael Wilkes teaching a free legal seminar for the public).

Workers' Compensation Section Forum, Orlando, April 6-8, 2016.

WCI and OJCC Free Seminar

The OJCC free CLE/CEU program in Tallahassee is booked to capacity We are looking forward to seeing everyone there for a great program. The Supreme Court did not render any workers' compensation decisions today, but we still have much to discuss tomorrow! Special thanks to our Committee, Judges Lazzara, Humphries, Dietz and Anderson, and our hosts at the First District Court of Appeals and Judge Roberts for delivering some welcoming remarks. Thanks to WCI, and Program Chair Steve Rissman for their participation. Thanks to our speakers, Steve Coonrod, Mary Cruickshank, Crystal Chancey, Corlis Hill, Kathleen Hudson, Mary Ingley, William Rogner, Todd Sanders, Sara Steele, Tod Stupski, Michael Winer; and Judges Wilbur Anderson, Robert Dietz, Renee Hill, Thomas Portuallo (ret.), Ray Holley, Ralph Humphries, Richard Irvin (ret.), Ellen Lorenzen, and Nolan Winn. And finally, thanks to Kathy Shelton, Stephanie Dotson, Cathy Bowman, Shirley Kendall, and Woody Douglas, without whom this program would not be possible.

Follow the OJCC on the Internet

Visit the blog through the link on our website, www.fljcc.org. Follow us on Twitter, click on the link at www.fljcc.org or type in @fljcc and keep up with what is going on. Share your thoughts using #workerscomp or #fljcc. Recent posts featured [To D or not to D](#), regarding the Supreme Court consideration of the Daubert statutory change, [Who was the 1972 National Commission on WC?](#), [The Publication Distinction in our Modern World](#), [Critical Lessons from a Bar Seminar](#) and [more](#).

Tools for the Effective Workers' Compensation Litigator

E-JCC tools, tips and reminders of which to be aware.

[Attorneys represent clients. Law firms do not.](#)

[Retirement or death.](#)

[Pretrial compliance questionnaire tool?](#)

[The tool for checking your calendar?](#)

[Monitor your daily filings?](#)

Ask OJCC

The email address for our central e-filing assistance is askojcc@doah.state.fl.us. Questions about using e-JCC, about e-filing, appellate records, etc. can be sent to this address. They are not able to give legal advice. They cannot help you with your computer issues or internet issues. But they are the experts on the e-filing process.

Lunch and Learns with the Bar Are Back!

The **Workers' Compensation Section** has brought back lunch and learns. The following are scheduled at this time: March 9, 2016 **Judge Neal Pitts** (ORL); April 13, 2016 **Judges Daniel Lewis** (FTL), **Stephen Rosen** (SPT) and **Thomas Sculco** (ORL); May 11, 2016 **Judge Robert Dietz** (MEL); June 8, 2016 **Judge James Condry** (ORL). What a line-up of great judges!