



Pennsylvania
WORKERS' COMPENSATION
and WORKPLACE SAFETY
Annual Report Fiscal Year 2005/06

Edward G. Rendell, Governor
Commonwealth of Pennsylvania

Stephen M. Schmerin, Secretary
Department of Labor & Industry

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2005/06 Annual Report Readers' Survey

Please take a few minutes to complete and return this brief survey and help the bureau continue to produce a quality publication that meets the needs of Pennsylvania's workers' compensation community. (Your answers are confidential; we do not require your name or affiliation.)

Comments are always welcome, but to have your responses considered during production of the 2006/07 Annual Report, please return your completed survey by July 1, 2007, to the following address:

**Bureau of Workers' Compensation
Information Services Section
1171 S. Cameron St., Room 324
Harrisburg, PA 17104-2501**

1. Does your organization have a need for a hard copy Annual Report, or is online availability sufficient?

2. How is the Annual Report used in your organization?

3. What feature(s) do you consider the most useful?

4. What feature(s) do you consider the least useful?

5. Is there a current feature in the Annual Report that you believe could be improved? How should it be improved?

6. Are there certain statistics or a particular area of interest not currently covered that you would like to see reported in the future?

7. Do you have any other comments about the Annual Report?

Thank you for your interest in the Workers' Compensation and Workplace Safety Annual Report!

Message from **Stephen M. Schmerin** Secretary of Labor & Industry

The Pennsylvania Bureau of Workers' Compensation and Office of Adjudication play a key role in preserving the economic health of Pennsylvania's citizens, especially injured workers, employers and insurers. This annual report offers a glimpse into the many efforts the Department of Labor & Industry employees made last year to improve Pennsylvania's workers' compensation system.

Pennsylvania businesses saw an average 2.89 percent reduction in loss cost workers' compensation premiums in 2005, and an average 8.58 percent reduction in 2006. According to projections, the 2006 reduction would save commonwealth businesses more than \$100 million as a result of these dramatic loss cost rate reductions. This is in addition to over \$230 million in savings realized by nearly 7,000 employers who have established certified workplace safety committees.

With nearly one million workers covered by employers who have established state-certified workplace safety committees, Pennsylvania is indeed a safer place to work. A few of the tangible examples of improved workplace safety are evident and demonstrated by the seven companies that earned the Governor's Award for Safety Excellence in 2005.

Together, L&I and businesses are working hard to ensure that Pennsylvania workers return safely to their homes and families at the end of each day.

Enhanced workplace safety initiatives and lower workers' compensation costs, combined with economic investments across the state, are improving the business climate in Pennsylvania. As a result, more businesses are locating and expanding here. The result is that the commonwealth is setting record high job counts.

Rest assured that as employment continues to grow, L&I's Bureau of Workers' Compensation and Office of Adjudication will continue to enhance safety and improve the workers' compensation system for businesses, employees and insurers.

Sincerely,



Stephen M. Schmerin



Message from Elizabeth Crum

Deputy Secretary for Compensation & Insurance

Fiscal year 2005/06 was extremely productive for the Bureau of Workers' Compensation and Office of Adjudication. Their accomplishments and goals for the future are outlined in this annual report.

Employers in Pennsylvania continued to benefit from the annual renewal of state-certified safety committees, enjoying over \$230 million in savings on their insurance premiums, while almost one million workers benefited from safer work environments and opportunities to have a say in the safety of their workplace.

Meanwhile, the bureau was very busy evaluating its delivery of customer service to the workers' compensation community and took steps to ensure faster and more accurate communications with injured workers, employers, insurers and medical providers. Online filing of reports, numerous forms and other communication devices are now available via the bureau's Web site (www.state.pa.us, PA Keyword: workers comp), and new tools are in development to make electronic communications between the bureau and its constituents faster and more efficient.

The Office of Adjudication was once again able to reduce the average time to hear and decide workers' compensation cases to 8.2 months. These hearing times have been continually decreasing, and today cases are decided over three months faster than they were in 1998. Alternative dispute resolution services are also expanding, and many of our workers' compensation judges are committed to offering their expertise in this area, despite their busy caseloads.

The Bureau of Workers' Compensation and Office of Adjudication staff will continue to strive to ensure that all workers in Pennsylvania are safe and treated with respect and fairness.

Sincerely,

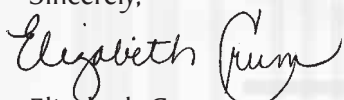

Elizabeth Crum



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Message from John T. Kupchinsky Director, Bureau of Workers' Compensation

Once again, the Bureau of Workers' Compensation has made significant progress toward our steadfast goal of a customer-friendly workers' compensation system.

We instituted the Language Line, a service whereby callers or visitors to the bureau who speak a language other than English can receive the immediate services of a third-party interpreter via the telephone. This increases the number of people our Helpline staff can assist in a substantial way every single day, and in the first year alone over 200 callers and visitors used these services.

Electronic submission of the employer's First Report of Injury form became mandatory in January 2006. We've observed almost 100 percent compliance thus far, and the data received is cleaner, more timely and accurate.

Over 1,000 attendees from all segments of the workers' compensation community attended the Workers' Compensation Conference in June, where speakers educated, enlightened and entertained their audience.

Bureau employees provided training and spoke in seminars across the commonwealth. Topics included the Health Care Services Review Division's Repricer/Provider training sessions in Harrisburg; the Health and Safety Division's certification training held throughout the state; the Self-Insurance Division's informative sessions at the Pennsylvania Self-Insurance Association conference; and the Claims Management staff's travels to a multitude of sites across the state to provide claims handling education.

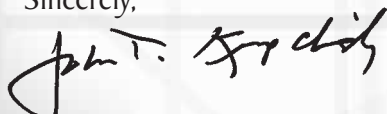
Over 16 businesses were successfully prosecuted for failing to maintain workers' compensation insurance, thanks to our dedicated Compliance Section and Legal Division staffs.

The newly designed "Report of Insured/Self-Insured Employer Performance" posted on our Web site allows insurers and self-insured employers to see how competitive their averages are for either denying or making first payment on a claim within 21 days of receiving notice from the employee. Employers and workers can also look at the data to see how their insurers' performance measures up.

In late calendar year 2006, the legislature passed Act 147, which among other things created the Uninsured Employer Guaranty Fund. The bureau immediately began work on creating the administrative processes and procedures to implement this legislation, and we will be ready to review claims against this fund in early 2007.

With a year of improvements and successes behind us, the bureau continues to strive every day to make Pennsylvania's workers' compensation program the best in the nation.

Sincerely,



John T. Kupchinsky, Director

Overview

A Brief History of Pennsylvania Workers' Compensation Law

In 1915, the Pennsylvania Legislature enacted the Pennsylvania Workmen's (Workers') Compensation Act (Act). The statute charges the Department of Labor & Industry, Bureau of Workers' Compensation (bureau), with carrying out the administrative and appeal obligations defined in the Act and specifies compensation for employees who are injured as a result of employment without regard to fault. Amendments eventually merged the compensation for injuries and occupational diseases into this Act. The statute defines the benefits available to Pennsylvania workers, the conditions under which benefits are available and the procedures for obtaining them.

The workers' compensation system protects both employees and employers. Employees receive medical treatment and are compensated for wage loss associated with work-related injuries and disease, and employers provide for the cost of such coverage while being protected from direct lawsuits by employees.

Workers' compensation coverage is mandatory for most employers under Pennsylvania law. Employers who do not have workers' compensation coverage may be subject to suits by employees and to criminal prosecution by the commonwealth.

Some employers are exempted from workers' compensation coverage. Exemptions include: people covered under other workers' compensation acts, such as railroad workers, longshoremen and federal employees; domestic servants (coverage is optional); agricultural workers who work less than 30 days or earn less than \$1,200 in a calendar year from one employer; and employees who have requested and been granted exemption due to religious beliefs or their executive status in certain corporations.

In Pennsylvania, employers can obtain workers' compensation insurance through a licensed insurance carrier or the State Workers' Insurance Fund. In addition, employers can apply to the bureau to seek approval to self-insure. Self-insurance is granted by the bureau based on criteria established by the Act and the department.

Employees are covered for the entire period of their employment. Therefore, coverage begins the first day on the job. Injuries or diseases caused or aggravated by employment are covered under workers' compensation, regardless of the employee's previous physical condition.

Mission Statement

The Pennsylvania workers' compensation program was established to reduce injuries and provide wage-loss and medical benefits to Pennsylvania employees who become ill or injured through the course of their employment so they can heal and return to the workforce.

The bureau is responsible for carrying out the provisions of the Act and related legislation and for fulfilling the overall purpose of Pennsylvania's workers' compensation system. In carrying out the requirements of the Act, the bureau has several primary roles:

1. Obtain, review and maintain records on certain loss-time work injuries and benefit documents.
2. Certify individual self-insured employers and self-insured employer pools and determine their monetary security requirements.

3. Resolve areas of contention among the participants in the workers' compensation system.
4. Enforce the provisions of the Act.
5. Promote the health and safety of Pennsylvania's employees in accordance with the 1993 and 1996 amendments to the Act.
6. Enforce the occupational disease provisions of the Act.

Basic Benefits

1. **Replacement of Lost Wages.** A portion of the worker's salary – up to a maximum amount provided by law – is paid for the time lost from work as a result of a work-related disability, if the disability lasts longer than seven calendar days. These payments are tax free. The maximum allowable weekly benefit for calendar year 2006 is \$745. Partial disability benefits consisting of two-thirds of the gross difference in wage loss for up to 500 weeks are paid to employees who suffer a partial disability resulting from a work-related injury or disease. Benefits can possibly be subject to other reductions or offsets.
2. **Payment of Medical Expenses.** Reasonable and necessary work-related medical expenses are paid regardless of the duration of required treatment and apply even though the employee may not have lost time from work.
3. **Specific Loss Benefits.** Benefits are payable if a work-related injury results in loss of vision, hearing and/or the use of limbs (including fingers and toes). Specific loss benefits are paid without regard to the amount of time lost from work. A separate healing period is also defined for each loss.
4. **Disfigurement Benefits.** Benefits are payable if there is a serious, permanent disfigurement of the head, face or neck.
5. **Death Benefits.** The employee's dependents may claim benefits if a work-related injury or disease results in the employee's death. Also, reasonable burial expenses are payable to a maximum amount set by law.
6. **Subsequent Injuries.** Additional compensation may be available through the Subsequent Injury Fund. This fund is administered by the commonwealth and pays workers who have had a specific loss of use for a hand, arm, foot, leg or eye *and* who incur total disability caused by loss of use of another hand, arm, foot, leg or eye. Then, the commonwealth makes payments for the duration of the worker's total disability.

The Flow of a Pennsylvania Workers' Compensation Claim

Notice of Injury

Employers are required to post form LIBC-500, Remember: It is Important to Tell Your Employer About Your Injury, to inform employees of the name, address and phone number of their workers' compensation insurance company, their third-party administrator or internal workers' compensation contact person.

Injury

An employee injury is to be reported to the employer within 21 days; if not reported within 120 days from date of injury or having knowledge of a work-related disease, no compensation is allowed (except for cases involving progressive diseases).

First Report of Injury

Employers are required to immediately report all employee injuries to their insurer or, if self-insured, to report them to the person responsible for management of the employer's workers' compensation program. Employers are also required to file a First Report of Injury (formerly the Employer's Report of Occupational Injury or Disease) with the Bureau of Workers' Compensation within 48 hours for every injury resulting in death, and after seven days but within 10 days after the date of injury for all other injuries which result in disability lasting more than a day, shift or turn of work. This document must be submitted electronically online at www.state.pa.us, PA Keyword: workers comp.

Notice of WC Denial

Within 21 days from the date the employee provides notification of an injury, the employer/carrier denies liability and issues a Notice of Workers' Compensation Denial (LIBC-496) to the employee. The claim is now closed, though the injured worker can seek legal advice to pursue a claim through the litigation system. See the Flow of a Workers' Compensation Claim (Litigated) on page 8 for more information.

Notice of Temporary Comp. Payable

Within 21 days from the date the employee provides notification of an injury, the employer/carrier issues a Notice of Temporary Compensation Payable (LIBC-501) to extend the investigation period to 90 days before accepting or denying full liability for the injury. This must be filed with the bureau in conjunction with the Statement of Wages (below).

Notice Stopping Temporary Comp.

When the employer elects to stop paying the injured worker temporary compensation, a Notice Stopping Temporary Compensation (LIBC-502) is completed. The employer may then issue either a Notice of Workers' Compensation Denial, Notice of Compensation Payable or Agreement for Compensation.

Notice of Comp. Payable

Within 21 days from the date the employee provides notification of an injury, the employer/carrier accepts liability for the injury and issues a Notice of Compensation Payable (LIBC-495). This must be filed with the bureau in conjunction with the Statement of Wages (below).

Agreement for Comp.

Within 21 days from the date the employee provides notification of an injury, the employer/carrier accepts liability for the injury and issues an Agreement for Compensation (LIBC-336). This must be filed with the bureau in conjunction with the Statement of Wages (below).

Statement of Wages

Employers must use the Statement of Wages (LIBC-494C) to calculate the employee's wages and should send a copy to the injured employee. This form must be submitted concurrently with a Notice of Temporary Compensation Payable, Notice of Compensation Payable or an Agreement for Compensation (above).

Notification of Suspension or Modification

When an injured worker returns to their previous employment, the insurer may file a Notification of Suspension or Modification (LIBC-751) within seven days of the injured party's return to work. Additional LIBC-751s for further modifications may be filed as necessary within seven days of each modification date.

Statement of Account of Comp. Paid

The insurer must file the LIBC-392 Statement of Account of Compensation Paid with the bureau annually for all open cases. The Statement should also be filed when specific loss benefits end.

Supplemental Agreement for Comp.

More than seven days after an injured employee returns to work, the insurer may file a Supplemental Agreement (LIBC-337) to alter the worker's benefits.

Statement of Account of Comp. Paid

The insurer must file the LIBC-392 Statement of Account of Compensation Paid with the bureau annually for all open cases. The Statement should also be filed when specific loss benefits end.

Agreement to Stop Weekly WC Payments (Final Receipt)

The Final Receipt (LIBC-340) is filed when an injured worker's benefits terminate. The worker has three years from the date of the last received workers' compensation check to file a claim petition contesting the termination of payments. See the flow of a Workers' Compensation Claim (Litigated) on page 9 for more information.

The Flow of a Pennsylvania Workers' Compensation Claim (Litigated)



Funding for Pennsylvania's Workers' Compensation System

The administration of the Pennsylvania workers' compensation system is funded by a spending authorization appropriated by the state legislature and approved by the governor. The money for these expenditures comes from four special funds established through assessments:

1. The Workers' Compensation Administration Fund

Purpose: Provides funding for the administrative operations of the bureau, the Workers' Compensation Office of Adjudication and the Workers' Compensation Appeal Board.

Assessment Amount: For fiscal year 2005/06, the amount assessed totaled \$57,525,231 and represented 2.22 percent of compensation paid in calendar year 2004.

2. The Supersedeas Fund

Purpose: To provide relief to employers/insurers for payments made during litigation of claims contesting whether compensation is payable. When an employer/insurer files a petition for termination, modification or suspension of benefits, a supersedeas hearing can also be requested. At this hearing, the workers' compensation judge can deny the request or grant a temporary order of partial or total suspension of benefits. If the request is denied, but the final decision of the judge is that compensation was not payable, the employer/insurer may apply to be reimbursed from the Supersedeas Fund for "overpayments" made following the initial denial.

Assessment Amount: For fiscal year 2005/06, the amount assessed was \$22,212,395 and represented 0.85 percent of compensation paid in calendar year 2004.

3. The Subsequent Injury Fund

Purpose: To compensate workers who experience certain losses (For example: arm, hand, leg, foot, eye) subsequent to a prior loss.

Assessment Amount: The total amount of the fund equals the amount expended from the fund in the preceding year. Law requires the fund to have a minimum funding of \$100,000. For the 2005/06 fiscal year, the amount assessed totaled \$278,942 and represented 0.01 percent of compensation paid in calendar year 2004.

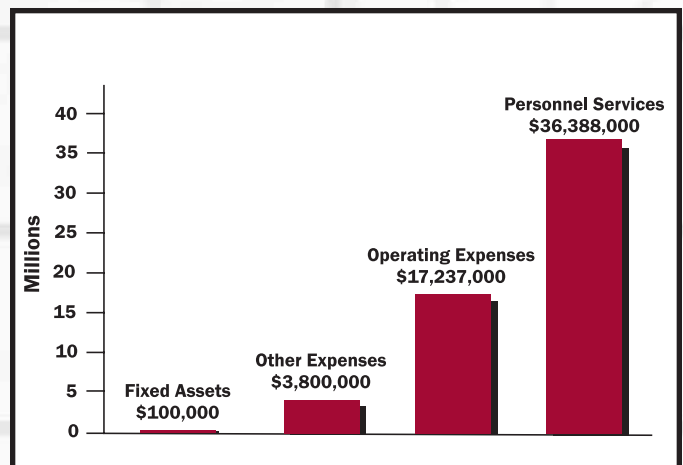
4. The Self-Insurance Guaranty Fund

Purpose: To make payments to any eligible claimant or dependents upon the default of the self-insurer liable to pay compensation or associated costs due under the Pennsylvania Workers' Compensation Act and the Pennsylvania Occupational Disease Act as amended in 1993. This fund is used when the securities posted by defaulting companies are exhausted, but can only be used for injuries occurring after the 1993 amendments.

With the passage of Act 53 of 2000, the General Assembly created a restricted account within the Guaranty Fund called the Prefund Account. The purpose of the Prefund Account is to provide for the continuation of benefits to workers who were injured prior to 1993 and whose self-insured employers have gone bankrupt. Originally, the Prefund Account was financed through the transfer of interest earned in the Administration Fund. However, in June 2001 the General Assembly enacted Act 49 which made the financing of the Prefund Account a budget item of the Administration Fund.

Assessment Determination/Amount: For a new self-insurer starting self-insurance after Oct. 30, 1993, the assessment is 0.5 percent of its modified annual premium for the 12 months immediately preceding the start of self-insurance. During the 2005/06 fiscal year, all existing and former self-insurers with runoff claims were assessed at the rate of 1 percent of compensation paid in 2004 to fund additional claims that became the responsibility of the Guaranty Fund. The Guaranty Fund assessed \$5,202,766 during 2005/06.

Bureau of Workers' Compensation Administration Fund Budget Fiscal Year 2005/06



Source: Pennsylvania Bureau of Workers' Compensation, Department of Labor & Industry

Updates

Workers' Compensation Rules Committee

The Workers' Compensation Rules Committee's purpose is to improve the administration of workers' compensation proceedings.

Nineteen members make up the Committee, including: the chairman of the Senate Labor & Industry Committee, the chairman of the House Labor Relations Committee, the director of the Office of Adjudication, the bureau's deputy chief counsel, the deputy secretary for compensation & insurance, two Workers' Compensation Appeal Board representatives, four workers' compensation judges (chosen from lawyers and non-lawyers and from metro areas and non-metro areas), four claimant attorneys and four defendant attorneys.

During FY 2003/04, the secretary of Labor & Industry reconstituted the Committee. The Committee is presently considering revisions to the Board Rules and to the Judges Rules, which may be required as a result of Act numbers 2005-109 and 2006-147. The Committee is also considering comments received since December 7, 2002, the effective date of the present Board Rules and Judges Rules. Any additional comments should be submitted in writing to Workers' Compensation Rules Committee Chairman Stanley H. Siegel at P.O. Box 867; Lewistown, PA 17044-0867.

Workers' Compensation Advisory Council

The Workers' Compensation Advisory Council was created under Section 447 of the Workers' Compensation Act. The council is composed of eight members, and the secretary of Labor & Industry is the ex officio member. Members are appointed as follows: one employee and employer representative by the President Pro Tempore of the Senate, one employee and employer representative by the Speaker of the House of Representatives, one employee and employer representative by the Minority Leader of the Senate and one employee and employer representative by the Minority Leader of the House of Representatives. Members serve a term of two years or until their successors have been appointed.

The council reviews requests for workers' compensation funding by the department and any assessments against employers or insurers related thereto, makes recommendations regarding certification of utilization review organizations and preferred provider organizations, reviews proposed legislation and regulations, and reviews the annual medical accessibility study. Their findings are reported to the governor, the department secretary and the legislature.

Two co-chairs, representing labor and management, and the rest of the council hold public meetings to discuss various issues of the department, bureau and legislature.

Kids' Chance of Pennsylvania, Inc.

Kids' Chance of Pennsylvania, Inc. is a nonprofit organization providing college and vocational school scholarships to children of Pennsylvania workers who have been seriously or fatally injured in a work-related accident or illness that has resulted in financial need. Developed and sustained by concerned groups and individuals involved in workers' compensation-related matters since its founding in 1997, Kids' Chance of Pennsylvania has awarded nearly 200 scholarship grants to eligible applicants. In 2004, Governor Edward G. Rendell endorsed Kids' Chance of Pennsylvania and became the organization's honorary chairman.

Support for Kids' Chance of Pennsylvania's operations and scholarships comes directly from tax-deductible charitable contributions made by companies, professional firms and

membership organizations, as well as individuals and community groups. The total amount disbursed to eligible students each year is dependent upon charitable donations received and the qualifications of students who apply. Grants are for one academic year and are generally from \$1,000 to \$1,500. Through a two-year ACE Foundation grant, in 2003 and 2004 Kids' Chance also awarded Kids' Chance ACE INA Scholar grants, generally \$5,000, for eligible applicants demonstrating a high level of both academic promise and financial need.

Applicants must be between the ages of 16 and 25 and be accepted by an accredited, post-secondary educational institution (college or vocational school). The parent's injury, illness or death must meet the criteria of the Pennsylvania Workers' Compensation Act. Graduate students are not eligible to apply. Kids' Chance grants are sent directly to the educational institution and can be used for tuition, books, supplies, room and board, transportation and other school-related expenses. The deadline for applications is April 15.

The Kids' Chance mission is now a national effort that was initiated in 1988 by the Workers' Compensation Section of

the Georgia Bar. There are currently 25 states in the U.S. that have created independent Kids' Chance organizations.

The bureau provides Kids' Chance of Pennsylvania with meeting room space and administrative assistance and helps to publicize the organization's efforts via the bureau's public newsletter, *News & Notes*.

For more information, contact Kids' Chance of Pennsylvania by phone at: (484) 945-2104, by mail at: P.O. Box 543, Pottstown, PA 19464, or visit the Kids' Chance Web site at: www.kidschanceofpa.org.

21-Day Compliance

The bureau continues to monitor and study compliance with the Workers' Compensation Act's 21-day requirement to make first payment or deny a claim. Our studies have shown that continuous interaction with the insurers and self-insured employers is necessary to identify reporting

problems, establish corrective measures and encourage timely payments to injured workers along with timely reporting. The bureau has begun issuing public report cards on this requirement and is expanding our educational outreach to attain full compliance.

Total Disability Weekly Workers' Compensation Rates

The following table illustrates the weekly workers' compensation rates used to calculate benefits payable to an injured employee.

1. Statewide Average Weekly Wage/Maximum Compensation Rate Payable

2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006*
\$611.00	\$644.00	\$662.00	\$675.00	\$690.00	\$716.00	\$745.00

2. 50% of Statewide Average Weekly Wage/50% of Maximum Compensation Rate Payable

2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006*
\$305.50	\$322.00	\$331.00	\$337.50	\$345.00	\$358.00	\$372.50

The compensation rate is 66 2/3 percent of the employee's average weekly wage. If 66 2/3 percent of the employee's average weekly wage is greater than the maximum, the rate of compensation payable is equal to the maximum.

If the benefit calculated is less than 50 percent of the statewide average weekly wage, then the compensation rate shall be the lower of 50 percent of the statewide average weekly wage or 90 percent of the employee's average weekly wage. There is no absolute minimum.

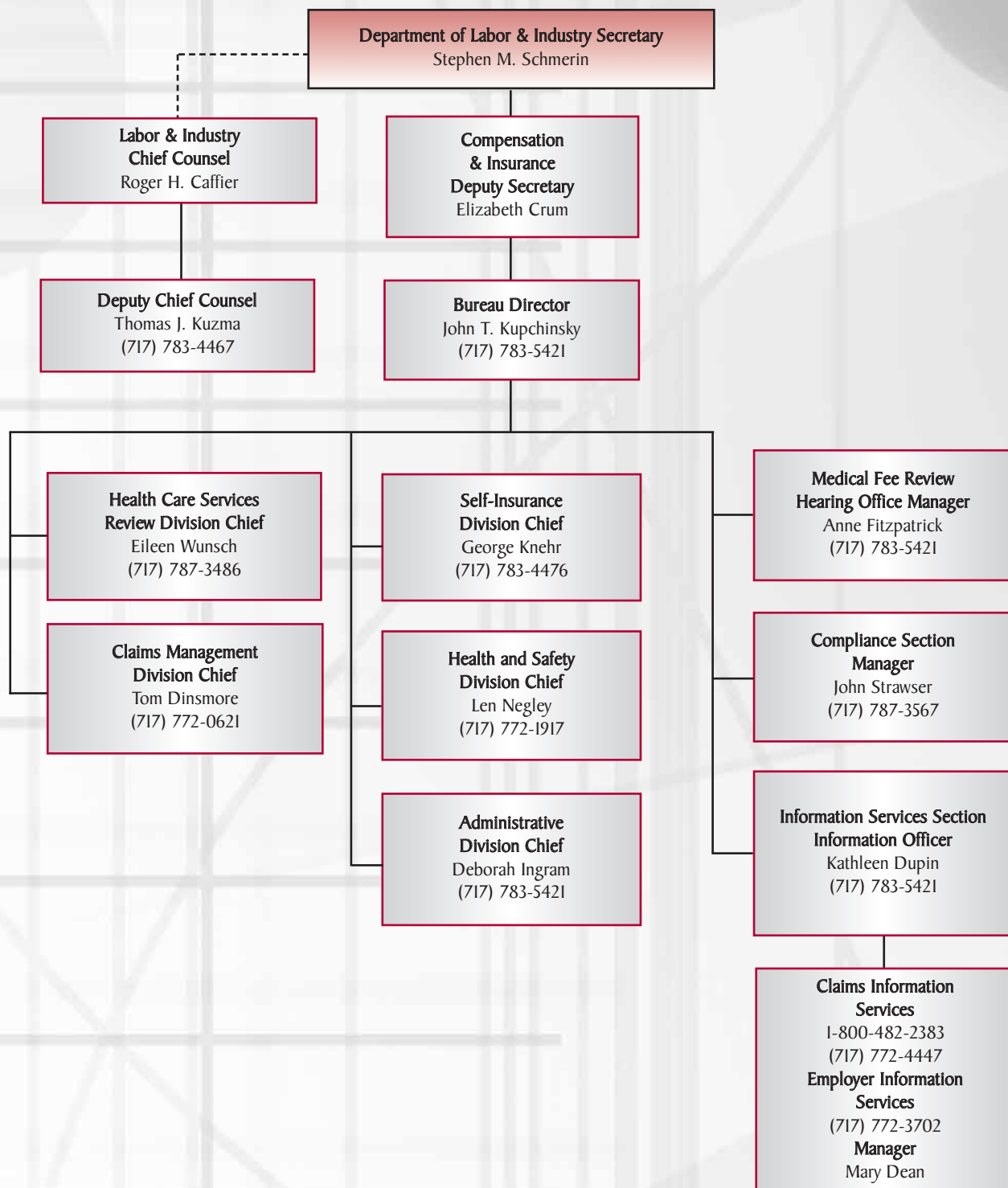
The maximum compensation rate payable is calculated

annually and is effective Jan. 1 of each year. The calculation of the average weekly wage is defined by the Act. Corresponding figures for years prior to 2000 are maintained by the bureau. For partial disability, other calculations and definitions apply.

*For purposes of calculating the update to payments for medical treatment rendered on and after Jan. 1, 2006, the percentage increase in the statewide average weekly wage is 4.05 percent.

Personnel

Department/Bureau Organization Chart



Divisions

Director's Office - Compliance Section

Primary Functions

Ensure compliance with the Workers' Compensation Act, regulations enacted pursuant to the Act and orders issued by the workers' compensation judges. These functions are accomplished through:


1. Educating employers regarding the requirement to insure their workers' compensation liability.
2. Investigating reports of alleged employers' failure to insure their liability and prosecuting cases of noncompliance in accordance with the criminal provisions provided by the Act;
3. Referring allegations of employee fraud to the appropriate insurance carrier and prosecuting authority and allegations of employer, insurer or medical provider fraud to the proper prosecuting authority;
4. Reviewing all work-related minor injuries to determine if potential child labor law violations existed, referring said violations to the Bureau of Labor Law Compliance for determinations and collecting any additional compensation due to injured minors;
5. Notifying survivors of their potential survivor rights under the Act when fatalities occur.
6. Reviewing and investigating allegations of insurer, self-insurer or third-party administrator violations of the Act to determine if further action is warranted.
7. Processing statutorily-permissible exceptions, exemptions and elections for inclusion under the Workers' Compensation Act.

Accomplishments: 2005/06 Fiscal Year

1. Mailed the *Employer Information* pamphlet to 25,542 new or modified businesses to better educate employers about their workers' compensation responsibilities, along with certificates of insurance to secure information assuring their compliance; 11,465 businesses failed to respond, so a second mailing was sent.
2. Instituted 2,544 new investigations of potential employer failure to insure workers' compensation liability and referred 44 to the bureau's Legal Division for prosecution.
3. Referred 13 complaints of employee fraud to the proper insurance carrier for investigation.
4. Processed 2,807 corporate executive officer exceptions and 825 religious exemptions for exclusion under the Act as well as 2,440 domestic elections for inclusion under the Act.
5. Investigated 509 potential labor law violations that could result in the collection of a 50% additional compensation penalty.

Future Goals

1. Continue to increase the effectiveness of the Compliance Section's employer education program by identifying new ways of notifying new, modified and existing businesses of the employer responsibilities.
2. Reduce the time period it takes to investigate and prosecute employers found to have committed violations of Section 305 of the Workers' Compensation Act.
3. Improve communication with prosecuting counties on the status and outcome of cases being tried and settled.
4. Increase the number of delinquent employers investigated. "Delinquent" employers in this case are those who have not acquired a valid Certificate of Workers' Compensation Insurance after two attempts to notify them via letter.



"Fiscal year 2005/06 saw an increase in the number of businesses the Compliance Section contacted, the number of successful failure to insure prosecutions and the number of employee fraud complaints referred to insurance carriers. With the dual goals of educating employers and investigating potential failures to insure, we are committed to ensuring that every worker is protected in case of accidental injury."

John Strawser

Director's Office - Information Services Section

Primary Functions

1. Provide employees, employers, the public, workers' compensation professionals, health care providers, government agencies, etc., with accurate and comprehensive workers' compensation information.
2. With Department of Labor & Industry Press Office approval, provide the media with accurate and timely workers' compensation information. This includes producing informational publications, coordinating interviews and writing press releases.
3. Support the department secretary, the bureau director, the director of adjudication and the bureau staff in their missions.

Accomplishments: 2005/06 Fiscal Year

1. Developed, planned and coordinated the June 2006 bureau conference. Approximately 1,063 employers, insurers, health care providers, attorneys and others from the workers' compensation community attended the two-day event. In developing the conference, the Information Services Section was required to: assist in creating the agenda; establish speakers from within the Department of Labor & Industry and from the public sector; collect and assemble handouts; prepare a contract for securing the conference facility; advertise the event on the department's Web site, in the bureau's newsletter and in other publications; develop and distribute the conference announcement to members of the workers' compensation community; record data registrations; arrange for the availability of continuing education credits to conference attendees; communicate with 100 vendors and coordinate vendor exhibits; arrange to have bureau representatives available at the conference for registration, handouts and to address the needs of attendees.
2. Mailed 104,942 *Workers' Compensation and the Injured Worker* pamphlets to workers for whom the bureau received a First Report of Injury and who lost more than a day, shift or turn of work as a result of that injury.
3. Responded to over 55,000 workers' compensation inquiries. These included 50,268 Helpline telephone calls; 3,264 calls from businesses on the Employers'

Services Helpline; and 1,633 e-mail questions. Note: due to a computer error, call data from September through November 2005 is not included.

4. Instituted the Language Line, a service whereby callers or visitors to the bureau who speak a language other than English receive the immediate services of a third-party interpreter via the telephone. Since its inception, over 200 additional callers and visitors have used the service and received answers to their workers' compensation-related questions.
5. Researched and responded to 1,323 inquiries regarding the workers' compensation insurance coverage of employers through the Pennsylvania Compensation Rating Bureau database.
6. Assisted 71 walk-in visitors with their workers' compensation questions and issues.
7. Responded to more than 250 written workers' compensation inquiries received from injured workers.
8. Redesigned and published the bureau's quarterly newsletter, *News & Notes*. This publication provides an overview of workers' compensation policies, programs and updates. It is distributed to approximately 12,000 employers, insurers, third-party administrators, union representatives, attorneys, health care professionals and the public.

"The Information Services Section is very excited to have added the Language Line to the list of services we offer; this initiative presents us with one more way of reaching and providing vital information to the workers' compensation community."

Kathleen M. Dupin

9. Published a monthly electronic employee newsletter.
10. Submitted articles for inclusion in the Pennsylvania Self-Insurer's Association's bi-monthly newsletter.
11. Participated in editorial board meetings for *UC Issues Update*, the quarterly newsletter of Pennsylvania's Unemployment Compensation programs. Submitted workers' compensation announcements and articles for inclusion in the newsletter.
12. Updated the bureau's Web site to keep the workers' compensation community apprised of issues pertaining to professional employer organizations, lists of authorized workers' compensation insurance companies, updates to the medical fee schedule, statistical reports of work injuries and illnesses and Section 305 prosecutions.
13. Developed new Web pages for the BWC and Office of Adjudication Web sites, including several informational health and safety ("Hands") pages and the "Requesting a Copy of a Decision" page.
14. Redesigned and expanded the bureau's pages on the Labor & Industry Online Network to include pages for each division, past issues of the employee newsletter and pages for each of the "Burro of Workers' Compensation" employee recognition award winners.
15. Published the bureau's FY 2004/05 Annual Report. This 70-page document provided a thorough review of bureau accomplishments, goals and a comprehensive analysis of workers' compensation key statistics.
16. Promoted the nonprofit program Kids' Chance of Pennsylvania, Inc. through newsletter articles and the Web site.

Future Goals

1. Develop, plan and coordinate the Workers' Compensation Conference, tentatively scheduled for May 2007 in Hershey, PA.
2. Continue to provide injured workers, employers, the public, workers' compensation professionals and government agencies with accurate and timely information regarding the Workers' Compensation Act.
3. Continue to coordinate and supply insurance information from the Pennsylvania Compensation Rating Bureau, as well as petition forms, to the workers' compensation community.
4. Continue to promote and assist the workers' compensation community with electronic filing procedures.
5. Coordinate the Governor's Occupational Safety and Health Conference scheduled for October 2007 in Hershey, PA.
6. Publish a workers' compensation handbook, to be made available to the general public.

Director's Office - Medical Fee Review Hearing Office

Primary Functions

1. Management and administration of the bureau's medical fee hearings program which includes receiving and processing hearing requests of self-insured employers, insurers or health care providers concerning medical payment disputes, responding to pre-hearing and post-hearing inquiries as appropriate, and tracking/reporting hearing office activity.
2. The hearing office issues notice of the assigned hearing officer and notice of scheduled fee review hearings to parties/counsel.
3. The assigned hearing officer responds to prehearing requests and/or motions concerning legal issues in the case and conducts a *de novo* administrative hearing, receiving documentary and/or testimonial evidence from the parties and their counsel, as appropriate. A written decision/order is issued subsequent to close of the record.

Accomplishments: 2005/06 Fiscal Year

1. Processed 295 new requests for medical fee hearings.
2. Less than 2 percent of Hearing Office decisions were appealed to Commonwealth Court.

Future Goal

1. Reduce the elapsed time between the date of filing of the request for hearing and the assignment/scheduling of the matter for hearing.

"During this fiscal year, requests for hearing increased by approximately 12 percent over the prior year."

Anne Fitzpatrick

Administrative Division

Primary Functions


1. Prepare yearly budget request for the Administration Fund. Project, analyze and report on the Administration Fund expenditures (which include the Bureau of Workers' Compensation, the Office of Adjudication, the Bureau of Workers' Compensation Appeal Board, the Office of Chief Counsel, the Office of Information Technology, and Labor & Industry bureaus that charge the Fund for services).
2. Issue, collect and record assessments to replenish the Administration Fund, Supersedeas Fund, Subsequent Injury Fund, Self-Insurance Guaranty Fund and the Small Business Advocate Fund.
3. Process supply/equipment/furniture requests and procure them for bureau offices, the Office of Adjudication and the Worker's Compensation Appeal Board.
4. Provide administrative support to all divisions and field offices within the Bureau of Workers' Compensation.
5. Provide personnel advice and services to bureau employees and managers.
6. Provide mailroom and optical character recognition (OCR) service to the bureau.
7. Coordinate bureau training.

Accomplishments: 2005/06 Fiscal Year

1. Budgeted, monitored and adjusted the Administration Fund as necessary.
2. Assisted the Claims Management Division in processing petition assignments within five days (mailroom and OCR).
3. Improved the processing of all paper documents into the electronic system was improved to within five days.
4. Provided timely status information on collection of assessments and bureau conference deposits.
5. Processed personnel actions within seven working days of request.

Future Goals

1. Assist the Claims Management Division in processing petitions within five working days.
2. Continue working with vendors, insurance carriers, employers and attorneys to comply with the form submission.
3. Develop and implement an online new employee orientation package.



"The Administrative Division is committed to providing timely service to support the many entities that make workers' compensation function: the Bureau of Workers' Compensation, Office of Adjudication, Workers' Compensation Appeal Board, as well as other offices and the vendors who bring us their products and services."

Deborah Ingram

Claims Management Division

Primary Functions

1. Serve as a repository for workers' compensation records.
2. Process, record and review documents received for claims.
3. Assign petitions to workers' compensation judges.
4. Provide records to claimants, attorneys, workers' compensation judges and others.
5. Collect statistics for workers' compensation injuries.
6. Evaluate carrier and employer compliance with the reporting requirements of the Workers' Compensation Act.
7. Serve as conservator of the Supersedeas Reimbursement and Second Injury Funds.
8. Pay claims where the bureau has liability.
9. Improve communication with the insurer community to monitor compliance with the Act and to expeditiously and accurately process claims.

Accomplishments: 2005/06 Fiscal Year

1. Processed 536,689 claim forms.
2. Promoted electronic data interchange (EDI) submission of the First Report of Injury and increased the number of partnerships using this means (currently 96 partners).
3. Promoted and increased electronic submission of several petitions through the bureau's Web site.
4. Maintained requests for records processing time at an average of 10 days or less from receipt, while processing approximately 30,415 requests.
5. Maintained an average petition assignment of less than five days from receipt of a petition.
6. Analyzed insurers' and self-insurers' performance for compliance with the 21-day rule.
7. Conducted external training sessions for forms submission and processing to insurers and third-party administrators (TPAs).
8. Developed a Report of Insurer/Self-Insured Employer Performance by analyzing and assembling data regarding compliance with the 21-day rule.

9. Mandated electronic submission of the First Report of Injury (formerly Employer's Report of Occupational Injury or Disease) and helped employers adjust to the new method by offering guidance and training.
10. Posted over 24,400 workers' compensation judges' decisions to the bureau's comprehensive information management system (CIMS).
11. Processed 925 claims and disbursed payment of over \$21 million from the Supersedeas Reimbursement Fund.

Future Goals

1. Conduct informative sessions and provide information via the Internet on the proper usage and timely submission of claims management forms.
2. Make the submission of additional claim forms available electronically.
3. Increase the usage of electronic form submissions.
4. Analyze and counsel the performance of insurers and self-insurers to improve compliance with the 21-day rule.
5. Increase our commitment to improving filing efforts by the insurer community to aid claim development, provide continued educational efforts to alleviate processing deficiencies, and improve our ability to communicate and support the rights and entitlements of all injured workers.
6. Assign petitions within five business days.
7. Provide online claim forms instruction to assist insurance companies, self-insured employers, attorneys and third-party administrators in meeting filing requirements.

"With the recent reorganization of the Claims Management Division, we have focused our resources on the daily processing of first reports, claims, petitions and records requests; compliance and educational outreach; and statistical analysis of data collected."

Tom Dinsmore

Health Care Services Review Division

Primary Functions

1. Administer the fee review process for health care providers who are disputing the timeliness or amount of payment received for medical care provided to injured workers.
2. Manage and monitor chargemaster fee schedule data. Under amendments to the Act in 1993, medical reimbursement was capped based on 1994 Medicare rates that are adjusted annually.
3. Authorize Utilization Review Organizations (UROs) to review the reasonableness and necessity of medical treatment when requested by the employer/insurer or injured worker. The division also trains, audits and monitors UROs in regulatory requirements.
4. Promulgate a list of physicians qualified to perform Impairment Rating Examinations (IREs) and designate initial IRE physicians when requested by employers/self-insureds.
5. Provide certification of Coordinated Care Organizations.
6. Act as a liaison to independent consultants performing medical access studies.
7. Provide education and training to employers, insurers and health care providers as requested.
8. Act as a resource for all involved parties.

Accomplishments: 2005/06 Fiscal Year

1. Issued 28,194 fee review decisions and determinations. This is a 52 percent increase over FY 2004/05.
2. Continued to update the fee schedule quarterly on the bureau Web site (except for Table I).
3. Monitored and guided work of chargemaster vendor, RES Solutions, to ensure timely and correct quarterly updates for insurers and self-insureds.
4. Continued to provide specialized training for health care providers to assist in their understanding of the workers' compensation billing and payment processes, as well as the fee review process. Trained over 330 providers in bureau-held sessions.
5. Continued to provide specialized training on the appropriate and optimal application of the workers' compensation fee schedule to over 183 repricers and insurers.
6. Processed and approved 25 annual reports for Utilization Review Organizations/Peer Review Organizations (URO/PRO). There are a total of 25 currently authorized URO/PROs.
7. Reviewed and monitored 4,842 Utilization Review/Peer Review Determinations and reviewer reports.
8. Received, reviewed and approved seven URO/PRO reauthorization applications.
9. Received and reviewed six URO/PRO authorization requests. Four were approved, and two were denied.
10. Maintained a reviewer database to monitor URO/PRO reviewer qualifications and updated this information regularly.
11. Processed 6,987 Utilization Review Requests. This is down 2 percent from FY 2004/05.
12. Conducted bi-annual meetings for URO/PROs.

“The most significant accomplishment for this fiscal year was to complete and publish the proposed Medical Cost Containment Regulations revision. This proposed revision has been in process for over three years and we are pleased to have published the regulations for comment. We will now be interested in obtaining comments from stakeholder groups and working toward final form for these proposed regulations. Our goal in revising the Medical Cost Containment Regulations is to simplify procedures, improve quality, respond to stakeholder requests for changes, simplify the Bureau Chargemaster and lower administrative costs for both the stakeholders and the bureau.”

13. Received and processed 2,369 IRE Requests for Designation. This is a 20 percent increase from FY 2004/05.
14. Maintained the list of 77 IRE physicians in 159 geographic locations under the new 5th Edition of the *AMA Guides to the Evaluation of Permanent Impairment*. This list is also maintained on the bureau's Web site.
15. Received and reviewed the 2005 Medical Access Study from TLG Research Associates. The study continues to indicate high levels of injured workers satisfied with their medical treatment. It also indicates that injured workers with Provider Panel Lists have a high satisfaction level, return to work over 30 percent sooner and continue to treat with the panel providers after the initial 90 days. The education of employers and injured workers is still needed. The study also continues to report PPO discounts and late payment as the health care providers' main concerns.
16. Continued improvements of service to customers/stakeholders through increased education for health care providers, employers and insurers. This included providing speakers at 28 educational seminars attended by in excess of 1,300 individuals. These speaking engagements included eight in-service training sessions for insurers/self-insurers/TPAs.
17. Participated in the annual bureau conference in June 2006, providing sessions on utilization review information, employer information on posted provider panels, medical payment issues and medical trends.
18. Sent out over 650 fee review information packets and revised the *Fee Review Information* brochure.

Future Goals

Medical Fee Review Section

1. Continue to provide quarterly fee schedule updates and Web site updates.
2. Provide education and support to health care providers, employers and insurers as needed and requested. This will continue to include yearly educational training for repricers, insurers and health care providers at bureau headquarters.
3. Continue to explore methods of reducing the size and complexity of the chargemaster database and simplifying the update process.
4. Continue to examine and enhance bureau processes in order to meet the standard of 30 day completion for fee reviews.

Medical Treatment Review Section

1. Authorize and reauthorize URO/PROs as requested and required.
2. Monitor URO/PRO Determination Face Sheet Packages for compliance with the Medical Cost Containment Regulations.
3. Conduct random, on-site audits of URO/PRO operations in accordance with Medical Cost Containment Regulations.
4. Continue to educate insurers, employers, attorneys and injured workers concerning the Utilization Review process and conduct semi-annual meetings for URO/PROs.

IRE Program

1. Update the Web site IRE list on a monthly basis.
2. Process Requests for Designation in a timely manner.

General

1. Conduct quarterly meetings with the Insurer/Provider Medical Cost Containment Committee.
2. Review public comments on proposed Medical Cost Containment Regulations revisions. Hold several open stakeholder meetings across the state to discuss published proposed regulations.
3. Upon passage of revised Medical Cost Containment Regulations, implement new processes/procedures and provide educational sessions for stakeholder groups.
4. Continue to provide education and training through seminars and insurer/provider in-services on Medical Cost Containment issues and processes. Where appropriate, extend these efforts for workers.
5. Monitor contractor's performance and preparation of 2006 Medical Access Study report in accordance with the Act and distribute these upon completion.
6. Participate in the bureau conference scheduled for May 2007.

Health and Safety Division

Primary Functions

1. Evaluate employer applications for certification of employer workplace safety committees for eligibility of workers' compensation insurance premium discounts as allowed under Article X of the Act. Provide assistance and guidance to employers in the establishment of safety committees, in the interpretations of requirements for certification and in the correction of application deficiencies prior to submission.
2. Provide safety committee certification renewal forms for certified employers and evaluate submitted forms for eligibility for continuing premium discounts.
3. Review annual reports of accident and illness prevention services and programs from Pennsylvania-licensed workers' compensation carriers, self-insured employers and group self-insurance funds. Formulate recommendations of program or service adequacy for consideration in whether to recommend continuance of licensure or self-insurance status.
4. Determine the necessity for, and conduct, on-site audits of accident and illness prevention services and programs and certified safety committees. Configure and monitor deficiency-correction programs as necessary to resolve program or service inadequacies.
5. Develop and disseminate health and safety-related information to members of the regulated community and the general public concerning: workplace safety

committee certification/re-certification procedures and requirements; mandatory accident and illness prevention program and service elements; safety-related training and annual reporting requirements.

6. Administer the process to review credentials in the health and safety field for recognition by the Department of Labor & Industry as acceptable qualification for accident and illness prevention service providers. Assign provider numbers to qualified individuals. Review individual qualifications for acceptability as recognized safety committee instructors.
7. Support and participate in the WorkSAFE PA initiative, which provides direction and coordination for activities and programs aimed at increasing workplace safety throughout the commonwealth. Manage the process to nominate, select and recommend employers for the Governor's Award for Safety Excellence.

Accomplishments: 2005/06 Fiscal Year

1. Granted initial certification to a cumulative total of 6,889 workplace safety committees covering over 929,616 employees as of June 30, 2006. The cumulative number of approved workplace safety committee certification renewals totaled 26,280. Approximate employer premium discount savings now total over \$226,563,487.
2. Received and processed a total of 776 workplace safety committee initial applications and 4,034 workplace safety committee renewal applications.
3. Continued to update e-mail databases for the various client groups to provide an electronic means of communicating with the workers' compensation safety clients.
4. Released all necessary self-insured, group fund and insurer-required filing reports within required time frames.
5. Evaluated the acceptability of accident and illness prevention programs and services of 439 insurers and self-insured employers through annual required reports.

"We're excited about our new HandS data management and processing system scheduled for launch in 2007. HandS will allow our clients to file reports and applications with us electronically, eliminating the need for paper forms and the delays that occur with traditional mail."

Len Negley

6. Conducted 253 on-site audits of licensed workers' compensation insurer and self-insured employer accident and illness prevention programs and services and certified workplace safety committees. Conducted an average of 21 on-site audits per month.
7. Participated in the process to select and award the Governor's Award for Safety Excellence to seven Pennsylvania companies. Conducted several on-site visits.
8. Refined the framework and design for the Pennsylvania Safety and Health Training Institute, a Web-based compilation and schedule of health and safety-related training and information available from both state agencies and other sources. The institute will offer instruction to employers and members of the general public regarding workplace and general safety and health topics including training and informational sessions delivered by numerous commonwealth agencies.
9. Participated in the development of the *HandS* (Health and Safety) integrated information-processing and management system, which is scheduled for launch in 2007. The advantages of *HandS* will include: the ability for clients to file documents online; the formation of a consolidated and integrated database of information; improved ability to communicate with customers; elimination of data redundancy; and ad hoc reporting capabilities.
3. Expand promotional and outreach activities to increase applicants for the Governor's Award for Safety Excellence and for the workplace safety committee certification program.
4. Decrease, through educational, communication and procedural improvement efforts, the percentage of employers who fail to achieve certification status.
5. Continue with development and implementation of *HandS*, the revised health and safety data processing system.
6. Conduct a total of 250 audits of the accident and illness prevention programs and services of workers' compensation insurers, self-insured employers, group self-insurance fund and of employers with certified workplace safety committees.
7. Complete the development and release of an insurers' annual data profile report comparing individual insurers to overall "averages" developed from cumulative annual report data. Complete development of a similar data profile for self-insured employers.
8. Complete the development and launch of the Pennsylvania Safety and Health Training Institute, including commencement with identified stakeholder groups.
9. Reconfigure health and safety-related information on the bureau and department Web sites to be more customer-friendly through topical reorganization, revised description and improved data linkage.

Future Goals

1. Increase outreach efforts to employers and members of the general public through information seminars, conferences, education events, written publications and Web site information concerning the certification process, training and accident and illness prevention programs and services requirements.
2. Promote the administration's WorkSAFE PA initiative through participation in seminars, association meetings and written publications.

Legal Division

Primary Functions

1. All legal services provided to the bureau are coordinated through the department's Office of Chief Counsel and the Governor's Office of General Counsel. Attorneys representing the bureau and its support staff are responsible for defending any legal challenges to the bureau's implementation of the workers' compensation system.
2. Responsible for preparing and coordinating criminal prosecutions of employers who fail to maintain workers' compensation coverage for workers.
3. Responsible for defending claims brought against certain statutorily created funds. For example, attorneys associated with the bureau represent the commonwealth in claims against the Supersedeas Fund, as well as the Subsequent Injury Fund and claims under the Occupational Disease Act.
4. Reviews statutes and regulations (federal and state) potentially impacting the workers' compensation community. In addition, draft bills, regulations and statements of policy at the behest of the client to either correct deficiencies or make enhancements to the system.
5. Routinely answers inquiries from the public, including written correspondence sent from departmental personnel and telephone calls that are handled by duty week law clerks and attorneys.

Accomplishments: 2005/06 Fiscal Year

1. *Publication of Proposed Regulations* – Through the 2005/06 fiscal year, the Workers' Compensation Division of the Office of Chief Counsel (WC Division) advised the department on the development of Proposed Rulemakings detailing the following amendments to Title 34 of the Pennsylvania Code.
 - 34 Pa. Code Ch. 123 (relating to General Provisions) – The bureau published proposed amendments to Chapter 121 in the *Pennsylvania Bulletin* on July 9, 2005. These regulations are designed to clarify existing provisions and provide additional guidance to participants in the workers' compensation system and update the bureau's practices and procedures.
 - 34 Pa. Code Ch. 123 (relating to General Provisions, Part II) – The bureau published proposed amendments to Chapter 123 in the *Pennsylvania Bulletin* on July 9, 2005. These regulations are designed to provide guidance relating to the use of vocational interviews in workers' compensation matters under Act 53 of 2003.
 - 34 Pa. Code Ch. 127 (relating to Health Care Cost Containment) – The bureau published proposed amendments to Chapter 127 in the *Pennsylvania Bulletin* on June 10, 2006. These regulations are designed to provide and clarify requirements and procedures for reimbursement and review of medical treatment for work-related injuries under the Workers' Compensation Act.
2. *Defense of existing statutes and regulations — Rite Aid, Inc. v. Workers' Comp. Appeal Board (Kramer) (Nos. 51, 52 MAP 2003; Pa. 2003)* – The WC Division, on behalf of the bureau, filed a brief as *amicus curiae* in this matter, which the Pennsylvania Supreme Court decided on Sept. 29, 2005. In its Opinion and Order, the Supreme Court of Pennsylvania, as the bureau requested, reversed the Commonwealth Court and held that section 204(a) of the Workers' Compensation Act,

“During fiscal year 2005/06, the Legal Division dedicated much of our time and expertise to drafting and publishing three sets of proposed regulation changes. Our focus, as always, is on making long-lasting changes that will be beneficial to the entire workers' compensation system.”

Thomas J. Kuzma

77 P.S. § 71, permits both self-insured employers and insurers to offset workers' compensation benefits by amounts paid in severance benefits. In so holding, the Supreme Court adopted the position articulated by the department in its *amicus* brief, and reaffirmed the department's regulations at 34 Pa. Code §§ 123.1-.11.

3. *Supersedeas Fund Reimbursement* – Throughout the course of fiscal year 2005/06, the WC Division has successfully limited the costs and exposures of the Supersedeas Fund in various circumstances. The division successfully represented the Supersedeas Fund in the following significant matters.

- *Commonwealth, Dep't of Labor & Indus. v. Workers' Compensation Appeal Bd. (Exel Logistics)*, 890 A.2d 1045 (Pa. 2005) – In an Opinion and Order dated Dec. 30, 2005, the Supreme Court of Pennsylvania affirmed the Commonwealth Court's decision denying Supersedeas Fund reimbursement to Exel Logistics, Inc. In this matter, the WC Division successfully argued that Supersedeas Fund reimbursement was inappropriate where the insurer based its reimbursement request upon a proceeding brought under section 306(f.1)(8) of the Workers' Compensation Act, 77 P.S. § 531(8). The bureau asserted, and the Supreme Court agreed, that reimbursement is only available in matters instituted under sections 413 or 430 of the Act.
- *ConocoPhillips v. Workers' Compensation Appeal Bd. (Logan)*, 890 A.2d 1160 (Pa. Cmwlth. 2006) – On Jan. 19, 2006, the Commonwealth Court of Pennsylvania affirmed prior decisions of the Workers' Compensation Appeal Board and the workers' compensation judge denying Supersedeas Fund reimbursement. Specifically, the Court accepted the bureau's argument that an insurer may not procure reimbursement for amounts that it pays voluntarily while awaiting a decision on a supersedeas request. The bureau expects that this decision will reduce both needless payments by insurers and ill-conceived requests for reimbursement.

4. The following is a history of the WC Division's successful Section 305 prosecutions for fiscal year 2005/06:

- *Commonwealth v. Abakporo, Edmund E./Abakporo, Akolam / E.E.A. Investment, Inc., d/b/a Edmund Personal Care Home* – On June 6, 2006, E.E.A Investment, Inc. pleaded guilty to two

misdemeanors counts of failing to maintain workers' compensation coverage, and agreed to pay restitution of \$1,472, costs of \$111, and a fine of \$2,900. This business is currently in compliance and has renewed its workers' compensation insurance policy through March 2007. (York County)

- *Commonwealth v. Cajen, Inc. t/a Maple Hill Manor Personal Care Center/Barbara A. Pace & Edward J. Pace* – On Aug. 11, 2005, Defendant Barbara Pace entered the Accelerated Rehabilitative Disposition (ARD) program for a period of 12 months and was ordered to pay \$50 per month for costs of supervision of the ARD program and court costs, participate in recommended treatment and rehabilitation, participate in 25 hours of community service, pay restitution to an injured employee and reimburse costs expended for prosecution. Cajen, Inc. is no longer in business. (Luzerne County)
- *Commonwealth v. Anthony Derkack d/b/a Tony Derkack Enterprises* – On Feb. 16, 2006, Defendant Anthony Derkack pleaded guilty to five consolidated misdemeanor counts of failing to maintain workers' compensation coverage. The defendant was placed on probation for five years, ordered to pay \$30,134.09 in restitution to an injured employee and ordered to pay costs of prosecution. (Allegheny County)
- *Commonwealth v. Fernhill Press, Inc./Emmett J. Harkins* – On Dec. 14, 2005, Defendant Emmett J. Harkins pleaded guilty to four misdemeanor counts of failing to maintain workers' compensation coverage. Harkins was sentenced to four years of probation and ordered to pay a \$10,000 fine. (Montgomery County)
- *Commonwealth v. Harris, Phillip/Talex, Inc. d/b/a Whispering Pines Assisted Living* – Defendant Phillip Harris pleaded guilty to five misdemeanor counts of failing to maintain workers' compensation coverage and paid full restitution to an injured employee. On April 10, 2006, Harris was sentenced to five years of "intermediate punishment," and ordered to pay a \$250 fine and costs. Defendant Talex Inc. is currently insured. (Adams County)
- *Commonwealth v. Hook, Sally K. d/b/a Sissy Pooh's* – On Jan. 5, 2006, Sally K. Hook pleaded guilty to one misdemeanor count of failing to maintain workers' compensation coverage. On Feb. 1, 2006,

the defendant was ordered to pay restitution of \$71,771.58, a \$500 fine and costs and was placed on 12 months probation. (Columbia County)

- *Commonwealth v. Iron Bridge Domestic Services Inc./Catherini Beluch* – On Nov. 28, 2005, Defendant Catherini Beluch pleaded guilty to one misdemeanor of the third degree, agreed to pay restitution of \$3,746.36 and court costs and was placed on one year supervised probation. (Montgomery County).
- *Commonwealth v. Lepley, Dwight G. d/b/a Wheel Horse Wood Products* – On Jan. 17, 2006, the defendant pleaded guilty to 20 misdemeanor counts of failing to maintain workers' compensation coverage. On April 19, 2006, the defendant was sentenced to 20 years of probation and ordered to pay restitution of \$184,088.73 to the injured claimant, perform 25 hours of community service and pay costs of prosecution. (Somerset County)
- *Commonwealth v. Madonna, Jr., Vincent J. d/b/a Madonna Trucking & Demolition* – On April 19, 2006, Vincent J. Madonna pleaded guilty to one consolidated misdemeanor count of failing to maintain workers' compensation coverage and was placed on probation for 12 months. Madonna was also ordered to pay restitution of approximately \$5,300 to an injured employee. (Schuylkill County)
- *Commonwealth v. Montemayor, George/Big Dog Auto Sales Inc.* – On Feb. 21, 2006, Defendant George Montemayor pleaded guilty to five misdemeanor counts of failing to maintain workers' compensation coverage. The defendant was ordered to pay restitution of \$17,498.60 plus costs and was placed on six to 17 months supervised probation. (Cumberland County)
- *Commonwealth v. Nightwine, Edward D. d/b/a Nightwine Concrete* – On Oct. 31, 2005, Defendant Edward D. Nightwine pleaded guilty to one count of failing to maintain workers' compensation coverage. The defendant was ordered to pay costs of prosecution and pay restitution totaling \$29,052.98. (Cumberland County).
- *Commonwealth v. Pioneer Machine Company/F. Kenneth Sagosky* – On Oct. 24, 2005, Defendant F.

Kenneth Sagosky was placed in the ARD program for two years and was assessed costs and restitution of \$34,097.18. (Fayette County)

- *Commonwealth v. Shoemaker, George/Benner's Country Restaurant* – On Sept. 28, 2005, Defendant George Shoemaker agreed to plead guilty to two misdemeanor counts of failing to maintain workers' compensation coverage. On Nov. 7, 2005, the defendant was placed into the ARD program and paid a fine of \$5,000 plus costs. Benner's Country Restaurant is currently closed. (Juniata County)
- *Commonwealth v. Waltersdorff, Ronald t/a Ronald Waltersdorff Electric* – On April 13, 2006, Defendant Ronald Waltersdorff pleaded guilty to one consolidated felony count of failing to maintain workers' compensation coverage. The defendant was placed on five years probation with the following requirements: pay restitution in full (\$13,633.75) to the injured worker; maintain insurance; perform 50 hours of community service; and pay the costs of prosecution. (York County)
- *Commonwealth v. Younger Years Child Care Center, Inc./Pamela S. Seaholm/David Seaholm/Mark Elnikar/Karen Elnikar* – On Sept. 15, 2005, Defendant Pamela Seaholm entered a guilty plea to one consolidated felony count of failing to maintain workers' compensation coverage. On Oct. 17, 2005, the defendant was sentenced to serve 24 months probation, fined \$250 and was ordered to pay \$5,680 in restitution to the injured employee. (Crawford County)

Future Goals

- I. Continue to implement the mission of the Office of Chief Counsel, providing our clients with superior professional legal services by assisting them in achieving their objectives within the bounds of the law.

Self-Insurance Division

Primary Functions

1. Process and decide applications of individual employers for self-insurance status under Section 305 of the Workers' Compensation Act and Section 305 of the Pennsylvania Occupational Disease Act; set conditions for self-insurance and monitor self-insured employers' compliance with these conditions. As of July 1, 2006, there were 790 employers authorized to self-insure their liability.
2. Process and decide applications of groups of employers to operate as group self-insurance funds under Article VIII of the Act; regulate and monitor the financial conditions of the group funds, including the setting of rates, the maintenance of surplus and the distribution of dividends to members. Eighteen group self-insurance funds are currently operating, covering over 950 employers in the commonwealth.
3. Collect and tabulate information needed to issue assessments against insurers and self-insurers to maintain special funds established under the Act.
4. Administer the Self-Insurance Guaranty Fund and the use of financial security to remedy defaults of self-insurers. The guaranty fund and its special Prefund Account, which applies to claimants injured before 1993, provide benefits to approximately 393 claimants, with total reserves of \$34 million.

Accomplishments: 2005/06 Fiscal Year

1. Oversaw the transfer of claims payment, administration and defense functions of a large, bankrupt self-insured employer to the Self-Insurance Guaranty Fund.
2. Processed over 800 renewal applications and 21 new applications for individual self-insurance status, 351 claims status reports of runoff self-insurers and 24 group self-insurance fund annual reports and rate requests.
3. Distributed concepts on proposed changes to the regulations governing individual self-insurance to self-insured shareholders and held a meeting to receive input on the concepts.

4. Calculated and issued five assessments to finance the operation of special funds under the Act.
5. Working with the bureau's contracted claims service company and legal counsel, reduced the number of claims being paid from the Self-Insurance Guaranty Fund for defaults of one year or longer from 377 at the beginning of the fiscal year to 329 at the end of the year. Consequently, the total reserves on open claims declined from \$31 million to \$25 million.

Future Goals

1. Continue training self-insurers on the proper completion of forms, the provision of data and the projections of outstanding liabilities.
2. Take additional action to implement suggestions for improving objective criteria and standards of quality for self-insurance through the publication of proposed regulatory changes.
3. Working with the Office of Information Technology, implement a component of the bureau's comprehensive information-management system to automate the monitoring of claims activity and liabilities of sureties and other parties that have assumed claims payment responsibilities through self-insurance defaults.

"Self-insurers paid \$22 of every \$100 in benefits paid in Pennsylvania in 2005. While the number of self-insurers is low compared to the total number of employers in the commonwealth, the large average size and the involved programs of the self-insurers make them a significant aspect of the workers' compensation system."

George Knehr

Statistical Review

Benefits Paid 2003-2005 Indemnity and Medical Breakdown

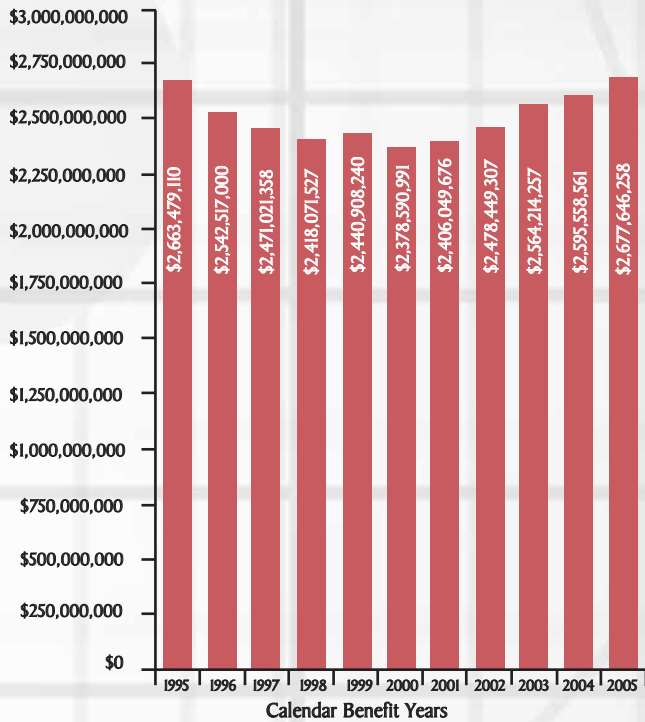
2005			
	Indemnity Compensation Paid	Medical Compensation Paid	Total Compensation Paid
Insurance Carriers	\$1,039,757,742	\$779,652,684	\$1,819,410,426 (68%)
SWIF**	\$162,858,964	\$108,572,642	\$271,431,606 (10.1%)
Individual Self-Insurers	\$326,625,213	\$206,216,783	\$532,841,996 (19.9%)
Group Self-Insurance Funds	\$25,128,093	\$28,834,137	\$53,962,230 (2%)
Total	\$1,554,370,012 (58.05%)	\$1,123,276,246 (41.95%)	\$2,677,646,258 (100%)
2004			
	Indemnity Compensation Paid	Medical Compensation Paid	Total Compensation Paid
Insurance Carriers	\$1,047,242,333	\$758,124,188	\$1,805,366,521 (69.6%)
SWIF**	\$133,295,829	\$92,670,365	\$225,966,194 (8.7%)
Individual Self-Insurers	\$318,717,703	\$198,553,170	\$517,270,873 (19.9%)
Group Self-Insurance Funds	\$21,747,148	\$25,207,825	\$46,954,973 (1.8%)
Total	\$1,521,003,013 (59.4%)	\$1,074,555,548 (40.6%)	\$2,595,558,561 (100%)
2003			
	Indemnity Compensation Paid	Medical Compensation Paid	Total Compensation Paid
Insurance Carriers	\$1,066,606,252	\$752,879,212	\$1,819,485,464 (71.0%)
SWIF**	\$111,467,072	\$69,188,509	\$180,655,581 (7.0%)
Individual Self-Insurers	\$327,897,877	\$194,388,684	\$522,286,561 (20.4%)
Group Self-Insurance Funds	\$18,443,207	\$23,343,444	\$41,786,651 (1.6%)
Total	\$1,524,414,408 (59.4%)	\$1,039,799,849 (40.6%)	\$2,564,214,257 (100%)

*Calendar Years

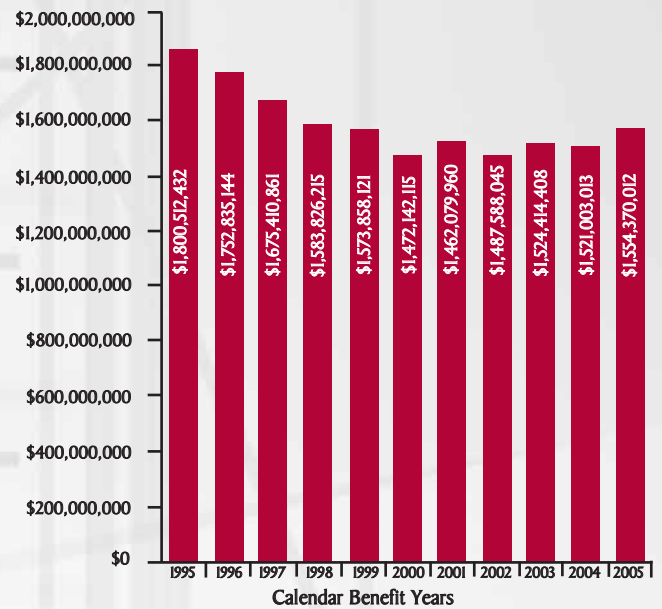
**SWIF: State Workers' Insurance Fund

Total Workers' Compensation Paid (Medical and Indemnity) 1995-2005

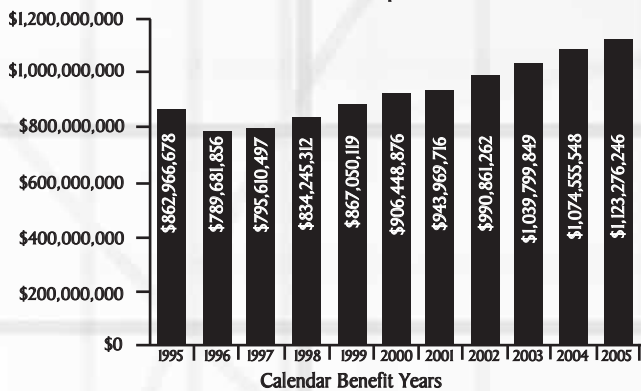
Total Compensation Paid (Medical and Indemnity)



Indemnity Compensation Paid



Medical Compensation Paid



Fiscal Year 2005/06 Injury Statistics

- In Pennsylvania, 108,979 work injury and illness cases were reported to the bureau during FY 2005/06. This year's total was 17.5 percent higher than the 92,719 reported in FY 2004/05.
- Pennsylvania's Work Injuries and Illnesses Rate (the number of lost-time work injuries per 1,000 workers) was 18.8 in FY 2005/06. The 2004/05 FY rate was 16.1. Natural Resources and Mining had the highest injury and illness rate among the major industry divisions in FY 2005/06 at 57.
- The divisions of industry with the highest percentage of accidents were Trade, Transportation and Utilities (21%), Education and Health Services (15%), and Manufacturing (15%).
- Sprain and strain injuries (47,512) accounted for 44 percent of the total cases reported in FY 2005/06. Over 25 percent of the cases were cuts, lacerations and punctures (11.5%) and contusions, crushes and bruises (13.9%).
- The most frequent types of accidents in Pennsylvania in FY 2005/06 were due to overexertion (31.1%), resulting in a sprain or strain in 81.3 percent of the overexertion cases. The second leading cause of injury resulted in a sprain or strain in 59.4 percent of the bodily exertion cases. Cuts, lacerations or punctures were the result in 30.3 percent of all "struck-by" accidents and 55.4 percent of all "struck-against" accidents.
- Injuries to the upper extremities (arms, wrists, hands, fingers, shoulders) accounted for over 32.5 percent (33,249) of the total cases reported in FY 2005/06. Back injuries alone (18,153) represented over 17.8 percent of the cases. Injuries to legs and fingers represented 18.8 percent of the total.
- Industry divisions with the highest number of work-related fatalities were Trade, Transportation and Utilities (31), Construction (19) and Public Administration (14).
- Almost half (47,343) of the 108,979 cases reported in FY 2005/06 came from eight of the commonwealth's 67 counties. Those counties, which represent 48 percent of Pennsylvania's workforce, were Philadelphia (13,874), Allegheny (8,478), Montgomery (5,099), Lancaster (4,369), Bucks (4,094), Delaware (4,268), Berks (3,905) and Luzerne (3,256).
- Injuries by Body Part Affected:
 - Neck: 2,578 (2.5%)
 - Head: 8,710 (8.5%); Eyes: 3,736 (3.7%);
Face: 1,022 (1%)
 - Upper Extremities: 35,434 (34.7%); Arms: 6,177 (6%); Wrists: 4,029 (3.9%); Hands: 5,813 (5.7%); Fingers: 7,963 (7.8%); Shoulder: 6,545 (6.4%)
 - Trunk: 25,041 (24.5%); Chest: 1,822 (1.8%);
Back: 19,346 (18.9%); Abdomen: 2,555 (2.5%)
 - Lower Extremities: 24,298 (23.8%); Leg: 12,492 (12.2%); Knee: 9,097 (8.9%); Ankle: 5,317 (5.2%); Foot: 3,798 (3.7%); Toes: 928 (0.9%);
Hips: 912 (0.9%)
 - Multiple Parts: 12,255 (12%)
 - Body Systems: 602 (0.6%)
 - Not Stated: 60 (0.1%)

Pennsylvania Work Injuries, Illnesses and Fatalities

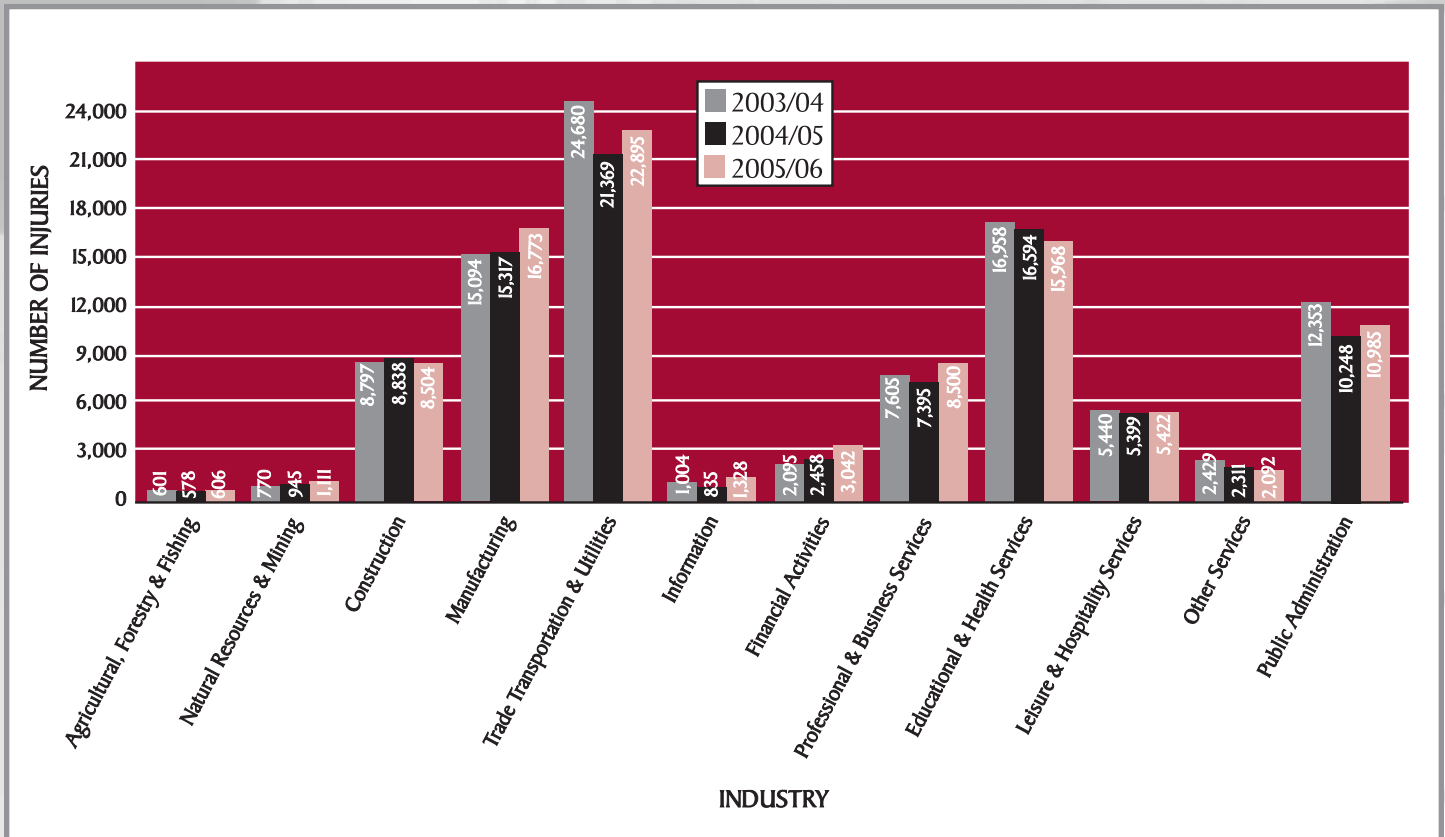
Calendar Year 1916 (10-Year Intervals) through Fiscal Year 2005/06

	YEAR*	TOTAL	FATAL**	NONFATAL
CY	1916	255,616	2,670	252,946
CY	1920	174,979	2,528	172,451
CY	1930	144,669	1,752	142,917
CY	1940	109,475	1,278	108,197
CY	1950	96,372	909	95,463
CY	1960	78,947	701	78,246
CY	1970	99,182	630	98,552
CY	1980	147,466	364	147,102
CY	1990	158,030	235	157,795
FY	1995/96	111,412	139	111,273
FY	1996/97	94,081	155	93,926
FY	1997/98	87,339	114	87,225
FY	1998/99	83,769	105	83,664
FY	1999/00	81,338	124	81,214
FY	2000/01	82,813	118	82,695
FY	2001/02	94,215	146	94,069
FY	2002/03	98,042	147	97,895
FY	2003/04	98,041	111	97,930
FY	2004/05	92,719	124	92,595
FY	2005/06	108,979	125	108,854

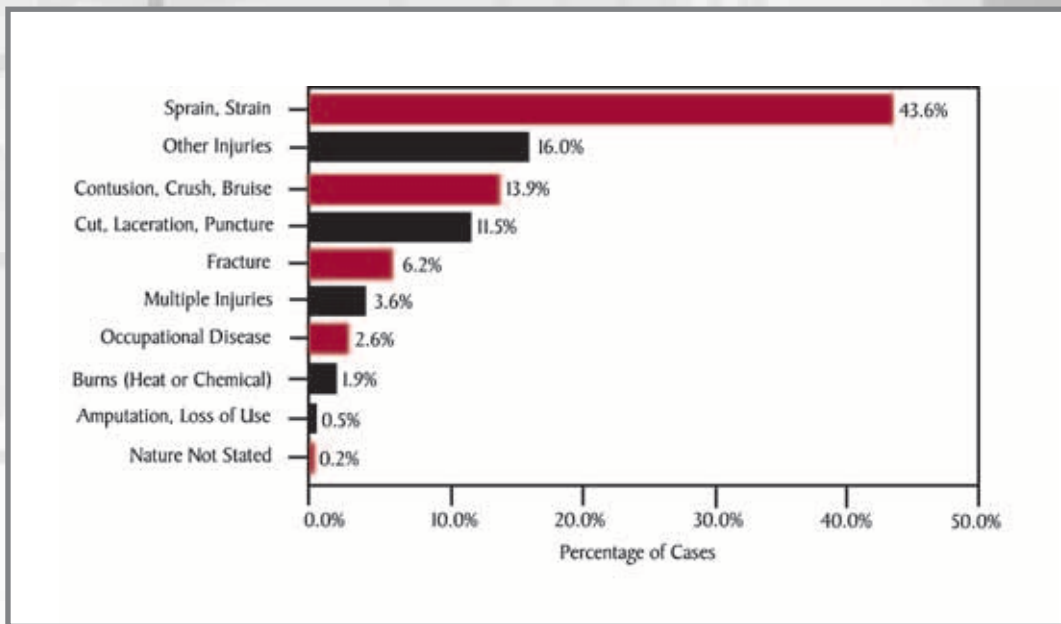
*CY = Calendar Year; FY = Fiscal Year

** Represents fatalities that occurred immediately or within a few days of the work event that caused death and are reported to the Pennsylvania Bureau of Workers' Compensation.

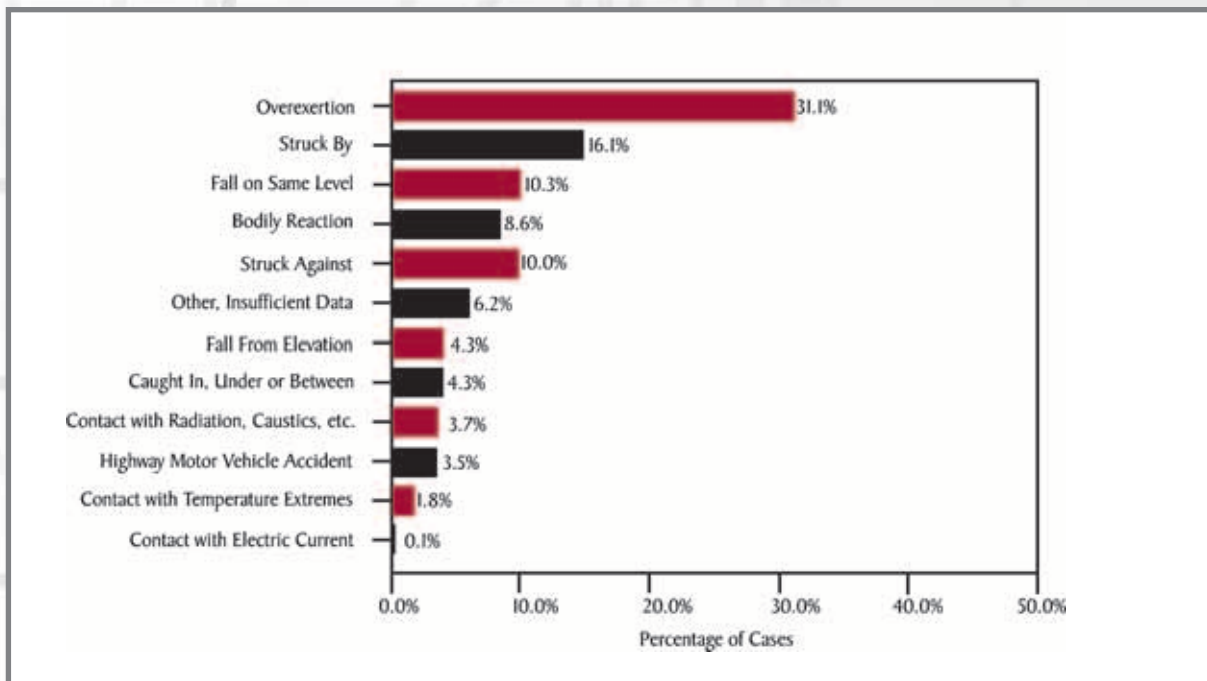
Reportable Injuries by Industry FY 2003/04 - 2005/06



Percent Distribution by Nature of Injury or Illness Fiscal Year 2005/06



Percent Distribution by Type of Accident or Exposure Fiscal Year 2005/06



New Claims Breakouts Fiscal Years 2003/04 - 2005/06

	Fiscal Year 03/04	% of Total New Claims	Fiscal Year 04/05 w/Med. Only Forms	% of Total New Claims	% Change from 03/04 to 04/05	Fiscal Year 05/06 w/Med. Only Forms*	% of Total New Claims	% Change from 04/05 to 05/06
New Claims	104,903	100.0%	136,517	100.0%	30.14%	140,979	100.0%	3.27%
Accepted Claims	46,342	44.2%	73,614	53.9%	58.85%	72,486	51.4%	-1.53%
By Temporary Notice of Compensation Payable	17,872	17.0%	13,086	9.6%	-26.78%	11,156	7.9%	-14.75%
By Notice of Compensation Payable	25,319	24.1%	67,253	49.3%	165.62%	58,442	41.5%	-13.1%
Other	3,151	3.0%	3,275	2.4%	3.94%	2,888	2.0%	-11.82%
Denied Claims	58,561	55.8%	62,903	46.1%	7.41%	68,493	48.6%	8.89%
By Denial	53,248	50.8%	57,061	41.8%	7.16%	62,844	44.6%	10.13%
Denied after Accepting with Temporary Notice of Compensation Payable	5,313	5.1%	5,842	4.3%	9.96%	5,649	4.0%	-3.3%

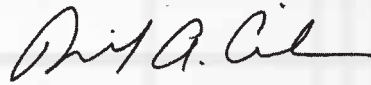
* Includes forms filed for Medical Only purposes.

Message from **David A. Cicola** Director, Workers' Compensation Office of Adjudication

The Office of Adjudication continued to enhance the service provided to workers' compensation litigants statewide. As of the end of the 2005/06 fiscal year, we again saw decreases in the average time required to process litigated claims, the percentage of closed cases awaiting decision for more than 90 days, and the total number of pending petitions. We also saw a growth in the use of mediation and settlement conferences, as more participants experience the value of self-determination in resolving their disputes.

I would like to recognize and thank the judges, our clerical employees and our management team for their professionalism and their ongoing dedication to the workers' compensation community. We look forward to continued gains in the current year and beyond.

Sincerely,



David A. Cicola, Director
Office of Adjudication



Overview

Primary Function

The Office of Adjudication is responsible for the resolution of disputed workers' compensation matters. The director of adjudication oversees 97 workers' compensation judges, three judge managers, four administrative officers and 25 field offices. The workers' compensation judges conduct hearings in disputed matters and render reasoned decisions in a timely manner. Many judges provide alternative dispute resolution services in contested matters.

Accomplishments: 2005/06 Fiscal Year

1. Reduced the statewide average time to hear and decide workers' compensation cases to 8.0 months, down from 8.4 months in 2004, 8.7 months in 2003, 9.3 months in 2002, 9.8 months in 1999 and 11.5 months in 1998.
2. Judges reduced the number of pending petitions from 35,036 at the end of the 2004/05 fiscal year to 31,961 at the end of the 2005/06 fiscal year.
3. Ended the fiscal year with fewer than 3 percent of closed petitions having been closed for more than 90 days prior to decision.
4. Continued to expand the number of cases processed through alternative dispute resolution.
5. Enhanced case management software (CIMS) to include electronic reporting of alternative dispute resolution activity.
6. Continued to advertise alternative dispute resolution services through the bureau's newsletter, speaking engagements, the department's Web site and in meetings with bar associations and other stakeholders.
7. Published and distributed a pamphlet describing alternative dispute resolution services available to adjudication participants.
8. Provided additional alternative dispute resolution training to judges.
9. Continued to provide "Resolution Days" to make the alternative dispute resolution process more efficient for participants.
10. Continued to provide "Resolution Court" at the Spring Garden office to expedite settlements in the Southeastern District.

11. Developed and conducted the 2005 Workers' Compensation Judges' Conference. This conference provided judges with continuing education hours required by the Act.
12. Formed workgroups to implement key portions of the strategic plan.
13. Revised the training program for newly hired judges.
14. Appointed workers' compensation judges to serve in the Philadelphia-Spring Garden and Malvern offices.
15. Conducted annual safety meetings in each field office.
16. Coordinated training of new and existing employees in CIMS, Microsoft applications, ESS and other topics offered by L&I and the Office of Administration.
17. Installed AEDs in field offices. Obtained training and certification in the use of AEDs, CPR and basic first aid.
18. Created database to keep track of CIMS training problems/issues.
19. Implementing the requirements of Act 109 of 2006 regarding child support arrearages.

Future Goals

1. Continue to decide cases within 90 days of the date cases are concluded and ready for a decision.
2. Further reduce the average length of time to adjudicate cases, with continuing emphasis on reducing petitions in litigation for 18 months or more.
3. Continue to enhance the professionalism of the judge corps through continuing legal education and judges' meetings and conferences.
4. Continue to implement the strategic plan.
5. Afford additional training opportunities to judges who provide alternative dispute resolution services.
6. Continue to use WCOA trainers to train new staff in CIMS, IES and Microsoft applications.
7. Continue to obtain recognition of regional safety committees.
8. Update current CIMS and Field Office Procedure manuals.
9. Revise the process for investigating and resolving CIMS issues.
10. Relocate field offices and remote hearing locations as and when necessary.
11. Implement the provisions of Act 147 of 2006.

Judge Managers

In addition to managing their own caseloads, the three judge managers supervise the judges in the Office of Adjudication field offices in their respective regions and the four administrative officers. Among other duties, judge managers are responsible for balancing workloads among judges; reassigning petitions among judges; assigning judges to handle informal conferences; performing or assigning other judges to perform hearing duties for judges who are absent; training and evaluating new judges; interfacing with stakeholders and evaluating the impact of proposed policy and legislative changes.



Persifor Oliver, Jr.

Susan Caravaggio

Karen Wertheimer

Administrative Officers

The four administrative officers manage the Office of Adjudication field office facilities and clerical staff supporting the judges in their respective districts. They develop enhancements of the adjudication processes in the field and provide innovative technology, necessary equipment and appropriate training for field office staff. The administrative officers are the Office of Adjudication's liaisons with the various divisions of the bureau and the department to provide necessities to the field offices that facilitate processing of judges' hearings and decisions on a timely basis.

The Administrative Officers are:

Sandra Parker - Southeastern District
Linda Montville - Eastern District
Sharon Hooks - Central District
Barbara Laurin - Western District

Updates

Compromise and Release Agreements

The parties may settle matters in dispute under the Pennsylvania Workers' Compensation Act by entering into a Compromise and Release Agreement. The agreement must contain detailed information about the settlement. Form LIBC-755 provides a format for these agreements.

A workers' compensation judge must conduct a hearing and circulate a written decision before the agreement can be effective. The judge may not approve the agreement unless

the injured worker understands its full legal significance. During fiscal year 2005/06, workers' compensation judges approved 14,112 Compromise and Release Agreements resulting in payments to injured workers totaling \$770,408,039.13.

Alternative Dispute Resolution Services

The Office of Adjudication is pleased to offer mediation services, settlement conferences and informal conferences to parties who wish to amicably resolve disputes under the Workers' Compensation Act. Under this system, the decision is placed in the hands of the parties, rather than the judge, through a process of self-determination to reach an amicable agreement. The neutral person's role is to facilitate the parties' discussion, provide guidance through the process in identifying each party's interests and to assist the parties in determining creative solutions for possible settlements.

Parties retain control over the outcome. There is no cost if a workers' compensation judge is selected as the neutral. Other potential benefits of this system include:

- Informal sessions
- Open communication between the parties
- Expedition of the claims process
- Limited attorney involvement

Adjudication professionals currently offering alternative dispute resolution services are listed on the next page.

Workers' Compensation Judges Who Provide Alternative Dispute Resolution Services

Western District

Aliquippa

Susan Cercone

Erie

Carmen Lugo
Edward Pastewka

New Castle

Alfred Benedict
Perry Jones
Robert Steiner

Pittsburgh

Pamela Briston
Nathan Cohen
David Henry
Cheryl Ignasiak
Persifor Oliver
Rosalia Parker
Linda Tobin
David Torrey
Kathleen Valley

Uniontown

Anne Coholan
William Lowman

Washington

Eric Jones
Charles Lawton

Central District

Altoona

Anna Marie Mullen
Robert Vonada

Brookville

Geoffrey Seacrist

Clearfield

Michael Koll

Greensburg

Irving Bloom
Paul Costelnock
Ada Guyton

Harrisburg

Wayne Dietrich
Brian Eader
Karl Peckmann

Johnstown

David Cicola
Francis Desimone
Charles Getty

Williamsport

Karl Baldys
Kenneth Walsh

Eastern District

Allentown

Geoffrey Dlin
Bruce Doman
Beverly Doneker
Audrey Formica

Hazleton

Wayne Rapkin

Lancaster

Robert Benischeck
Kathleen DiLorenzo
Michael Hetrick
Christina Tarantelli

Malvern

Martin Burman
Joseph Hakun
John Liddy
Seymour Nathanson
Donald Poorman

Pottsville

Paul Baker
James Stapleton

Reading

Terry Knox
Brian Puhala

Scranton

Joseph Grady
William Hall

Wilkes-Barre

Thomas Kutz
Joseph Sebastianelli

Southeastern District

Bristol

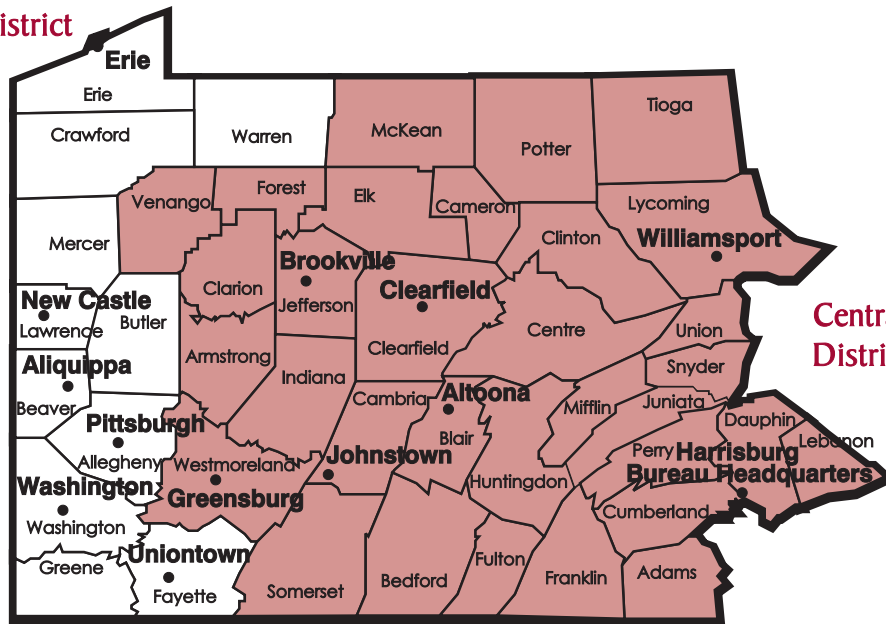
Michael Rosen
NE Philadelphia
Aida Harris
Denise Krass
David Slom
Michael Snyder

Spring Garden

Christina J. Barbieri
Joseph Hagan
Marc Harrison
Francine Lincicome
Pamela Santoro
Robert Simmons

Office of Adjudication District Offices*

Western District



Central District

Western District

ALIQUIPPA

Sheffield Professional Building
2020 Main Street
Aliquippa, PA 15001
(724) 378-1863

ERIE

3400 Lovell Place
13th and Holland Streets
Erie, PA 16503
(814) 871-4632

NEW CASTLE

101 South Mercer Street
New Castle, PA 16101
(724) 656-3084

PITTSBURGH

933 Penn Avenue, Suite 300
Pittsburgh, PA 15222-3817
(412) 565-5277

UNIONTOWN

108 N. Beeson Blvd, Suite 200
Uniontown, PA 15401
(724) 439-7420

WASHINGTON

Millcraft Center
90 West Chestnut Street
Washington, PA 15301
(724) 223-4595

Central District

BUREAU HEADQUARTERS

Room 324
1171 South Cameron Street
Harrisburg, PA 17104-2501
(717) 783-5421

ALTOONA

615 Howard Avenue
Suite 202
Altoona, PA 16601
(814) 946-7355

BROOKVILLE

395 Main Street
Brookville, PA 15825
(814) 849-5382

CLEARFIELD

306 East Locust Street
Clearfield, PA 16830-2415
(814) 765-6398

GREENSBURG

599 Sells Lane
Greensburg, PA 15601
(724) 832-5310

HARRISBURG

East Gate Center
1010 North 7th Street, Room 319
Harrisburg, PA 17102-1400
(717) 783-4419

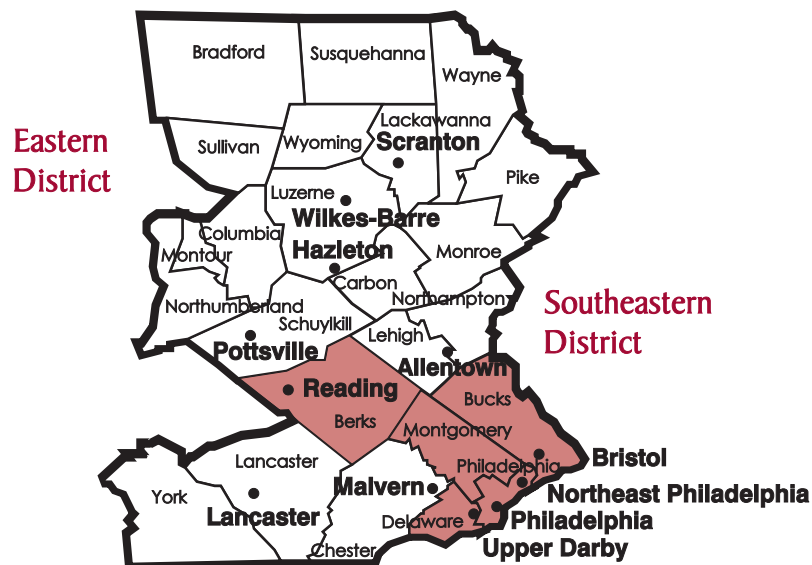
JOHNSTOWN

607 Main Street, Suite 100
Johnstown, PA 15901
(814) 533-2494

WILLIAMSPORT

Suite 202
208 West 3rd Street, Rear
Williamsport, PA 17701
(570) 327-3735

Office of Adjudication District Offices*



Eastern District

ALLENTOWN

160 Hamilton Street
Suite 200
Allentown, PA 18101
(610) 821-6554 &
(610) 821-6535

HAZLETON

29th Street Office Complex
Building A, Suite 203
1201 North Church Street
Hazleton, PA 18202
(570) 459-3840

LANCASTER

315 West James Street, Suite 206
Lancaster, PA 17603
(717) 299-7591

MALVERN

72 Lancaster Avenue, 2nd Floor
Malvern, PA 19355
(610) 251-2878

POTTSVILLE

112 South Claude A. Lord Blvd.
Pottsville, PA 17901
(570) 621-3146

Southeastern District

BRISTOL

1242 New Rodgers Road, Box 802
Bristol, PA 19007
(215) 781-3274

PHILADELPHIA

State Office Building
1400 Spring Garden Street
Philadelphia, PA 19130
(215) 560-2488

NORTHEAST PHILADELPHIA

Grant Plaza Business Park
2901 Grant Avenue, Suite 900
Philadelphia, PA 19114
(215) 560-2125

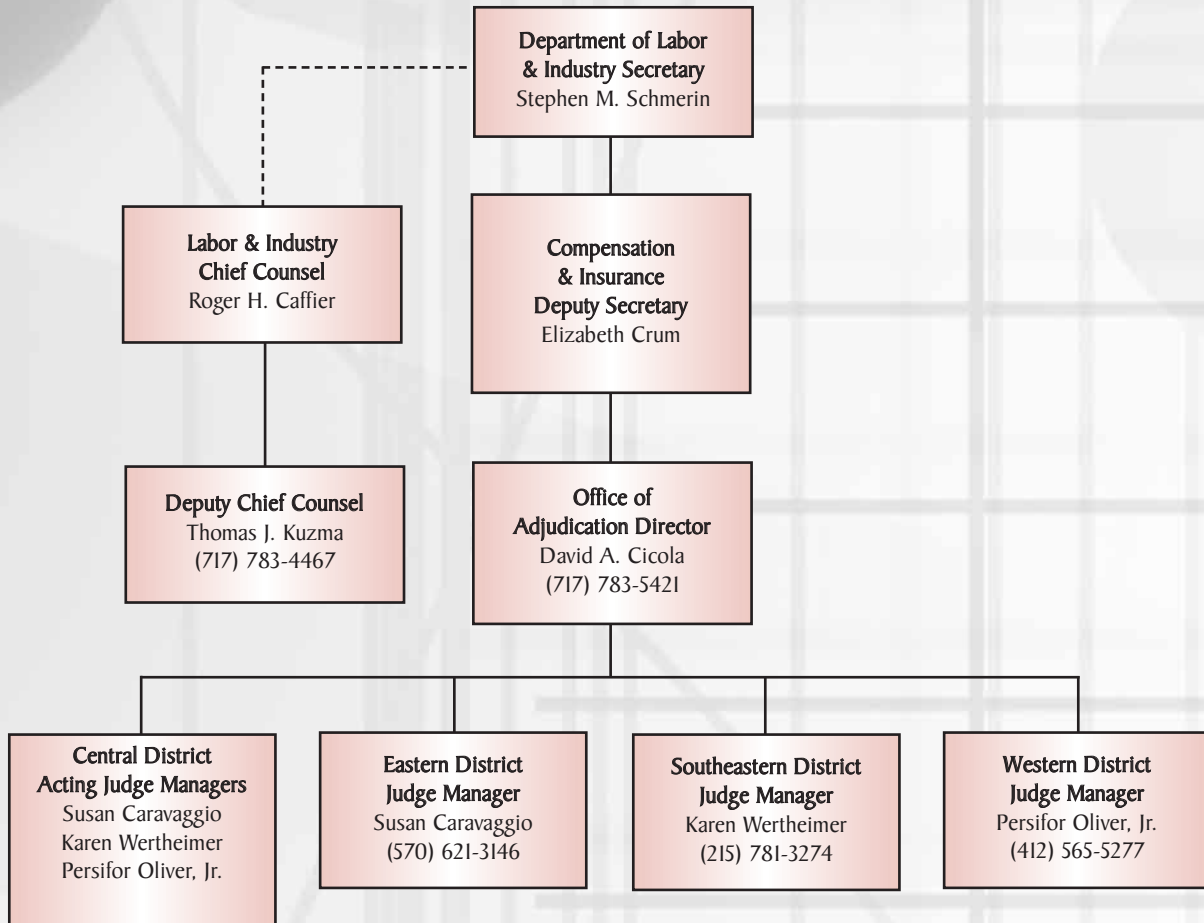
UPPER DARBY

Barclay Square Center, 2nd Floor
1500 Garrett Road
Upper Darby, PA 19082
(610) 284-6913

* See telephone directory on Page 55 for names, telephone numbers and office locations of workers' compensation judges.

Personnel

Organization Chart

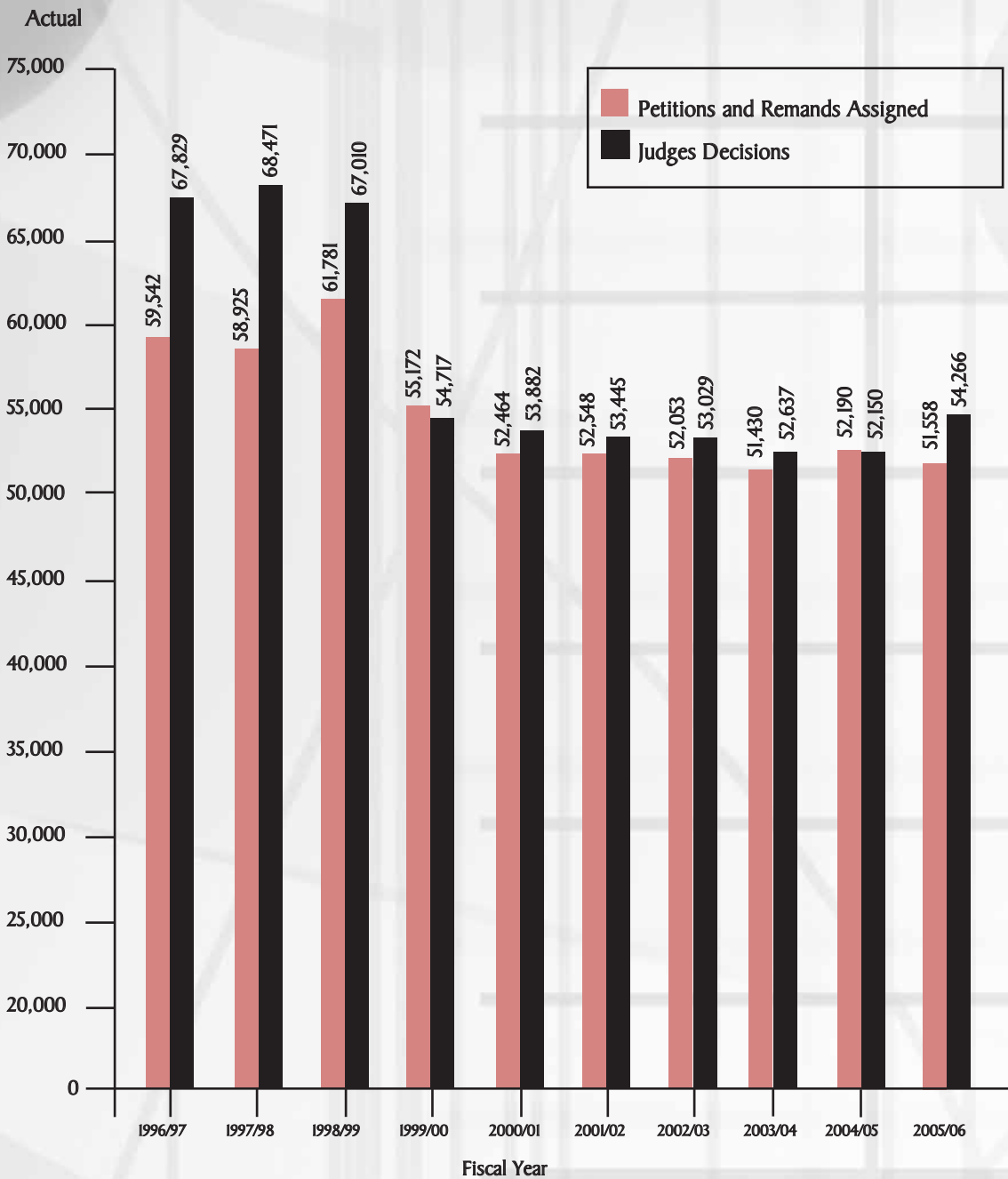


Statistical Review

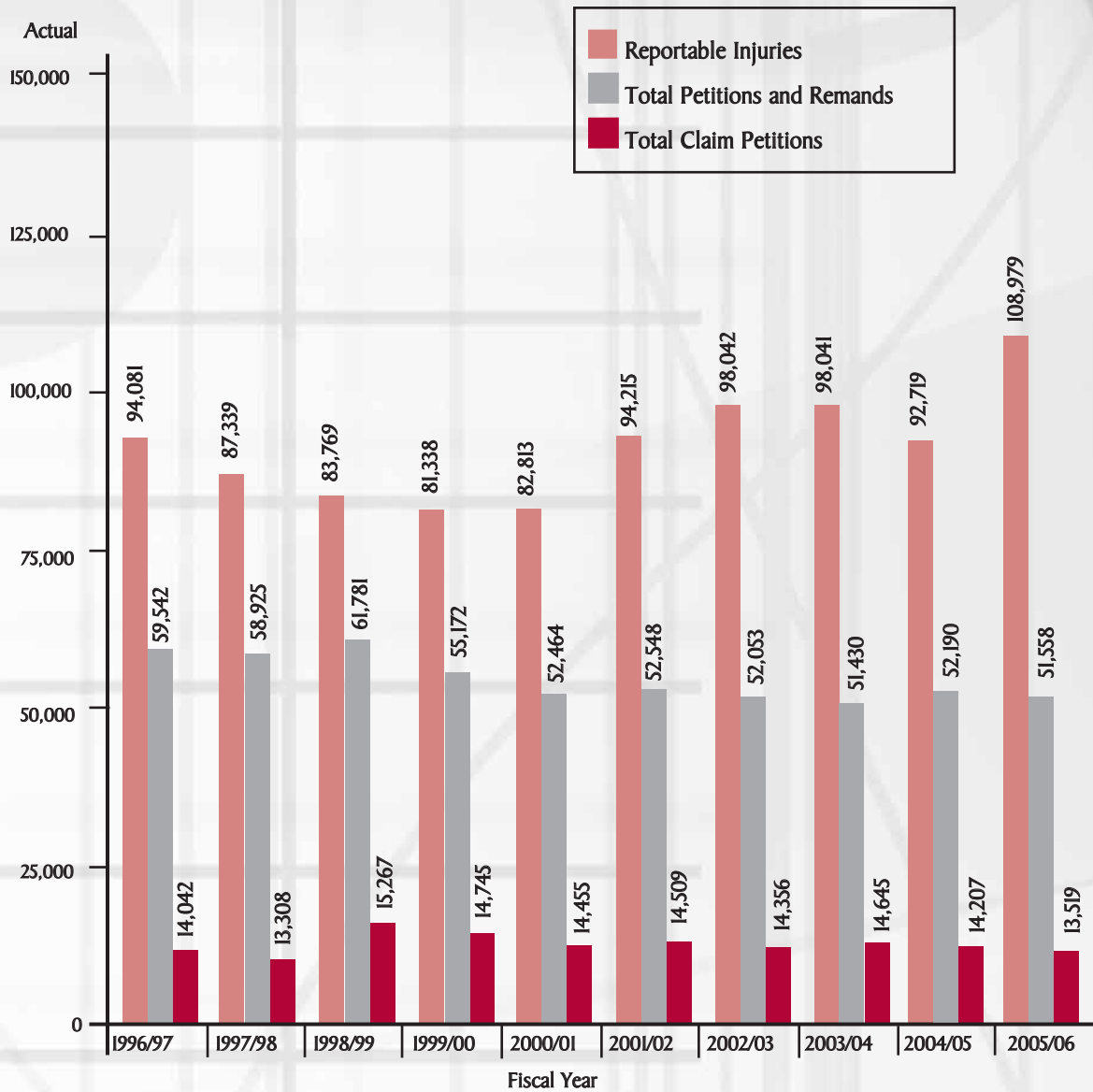
Petitions Assigned to Judges (Not Remands) Fiscal Year 2002/03 through 2005/06

Type of Petition	2002/03	2003/04	2004/05	2005/06	2004/05 to 2005/06	
					+/-	%
Claim	11,304	11,750	11,399	10,805	-594	-5.21%
Supersedeas Fund	79	126	105	124	+19	+18.09%
Reinstatement	2,762	2,717	2,639	2,561	-78	-2.96%
Suspension	5,138	4,543	4,828	4,544	-284	-5.89%
Termination	4,194	3,906	4,135	4,031	-104	-2.51%
Penalty	6,195	6,630	6,822	6,926	+104	+1.52%
Review	3,575	3,632	3,794	3,808	+14	+0.37%
Review Medical	1,068	1,076	1,109	1,112	+3	+0.27%
Fatal	151	88	79	91	+12	+15.19%
Commutation	20	12	11	3	-8	-72.72%
Modification	3,230	2,846	3,242	3,147	-95	-2.93%
Set Aside Final	72	45	47	38	-9	-19.15%
Claim 301(i)	59	31	29	18	-11	-37.90%
OD Fatal	8	14	7	3	-4	-57.14%
WC/OD Fatal Spec.	8	14	7	3	-4	-57.14%
Utilization Review	1,817	1,813	1,833	1,811	-22	-1.2%
Joinder	594	535	513	444	-69	-13.45%
Physical Exam	2,163	2,057	2,188	2,081	-107	-4.89%
Challenge	927	878	833	815	-18	-2.16%
Comp/Release	5,763	6,018	6,270	6,731	+461	+7.35%
Special Term	1,570	1,397	1,117	949	-168	-15.04%
Expert Interview	597	529	497	426	-71	-14.29%
Total	51,294	50,657	51,504	50,471	-1,033	-2.0%

Petitions and Remands Assigned vs. Judges' Decisions Fiscal Years 1996/97 through 2005/06



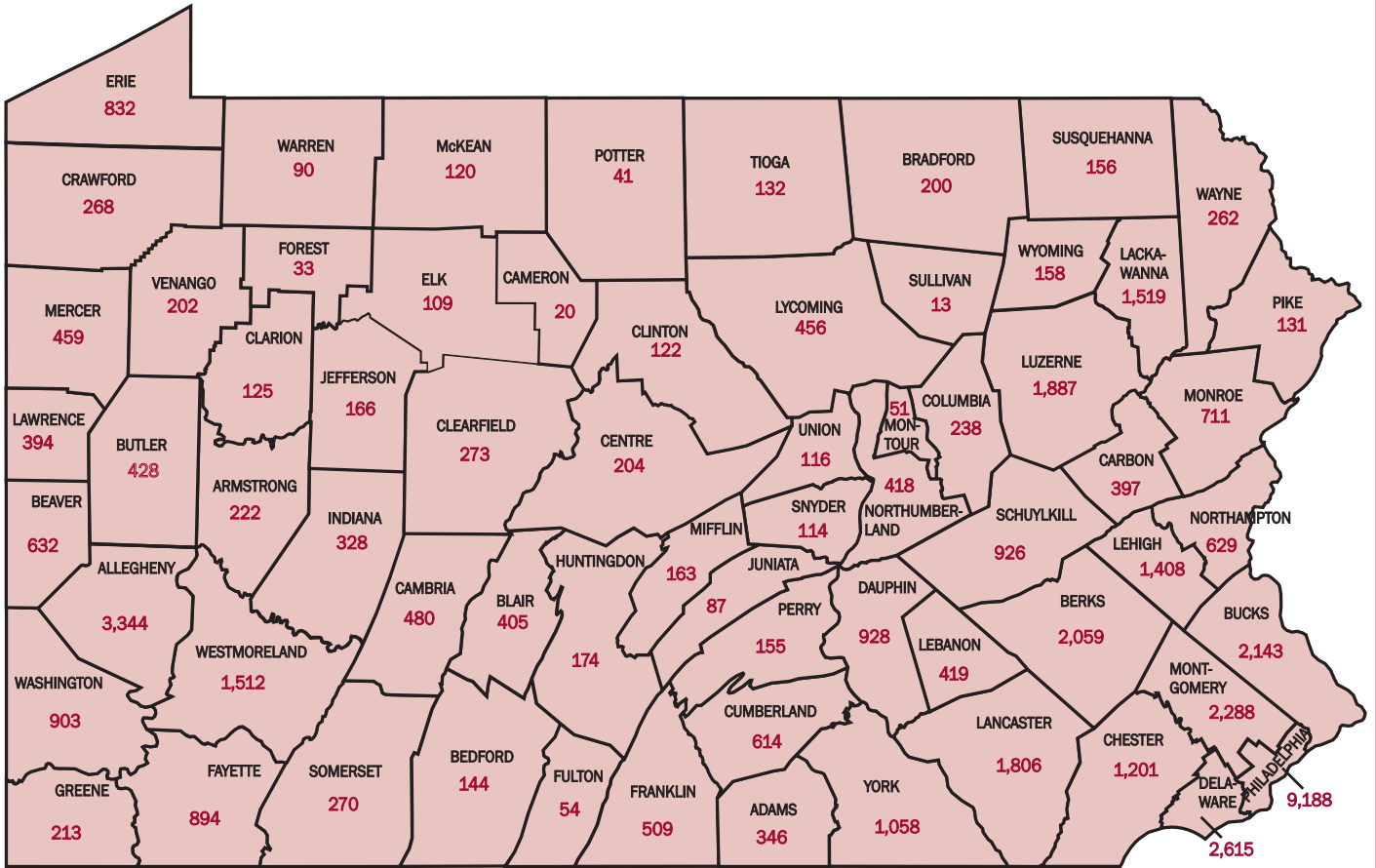
Reportable Injuries* vs. Total Petitions and Remands vs. Total Claim Petitions** 1996/97 through 2005/06



*Missed more than one day, shift, or turn of work due to injury.

**Claim petitions include claim, reinstatement, fatal, set aside final receipt, 301(i), and od fatal.

Petitions Assigned by County Fiscal Year 2005/06



Workplace Safety



WorkSAFE PA Initiative

“Promoting Pennsylvania Workplace Safety”

“It is the intent of the Rendell Administration that the new WorkSAFE PA initiative will incorporate previous statewide accomplishments with new goals and objectives to take Pennsylvania’s workplace safety record to the next level.”

--Stephen M. Schmerin, Secretary, PA Department of Labor & Industry

Workplace safety is a priority of the Rendell Administration and of the Department of Labor & Industry. Governor Rendell and Secretary Schmerin are committed to the goal of reducing workplace injuries and illnesses in Pennsylvania. Good safety makes good sense for the worker, businesses and the commonwealth of Pennsylvania!

Providing a safe work environment for Pennsylvania’s workers requires complete commitment by employers and employees. For this reason, Governor Rendell has instituted a workplace safety initiative called WorkSAFE PA “Promoting Pennsylvania Workplace Safety.”

The mission and function of the WorkSAFE PA initiative is to provide Pennsylvania employers and employees with the information and technical assistance needed to develop comprehensive safety practices in the workplace. It will also recognize successful employer-employee joint safety programs, which result in the achievement of safety excellence.

At the Department of Labor & Industry, resources from the Governor's Office of Labor-Management Cooperation, the Bureaus of Workers' Compensation, Labor Law Compliance, PENNSAFE and Occupational & Industrial Safety, and the Safety, Health, Accident Prevention and Education Division (S.H.A.P.E.) will provide a coordinated effort to ensure workplace safety throughout the commonwealth.

There are four main components to the WorkSAFE PA initiative which include:

- I. **WorkSAFE PA Advisory Board** - Comprised of business and labor representatives and health and safety professionals from across the commonwealth, the board serves as a community forum to provide the secretary of Labor & Industry with counsel and direction in the review or formulation of safety-related policies, programs and legislation for the governor’s initiative to make Pennsylvania a safer place to live and work. The board members are as follows:

Stephen M. Schmerin

Secretary
PA Department of Labor & Industry

Len Negley

Executive Director
WorkSAFE PA

Elizabeth Crum

Deputy Secretary for Compensation & Insurance
PA Department of Labor & Industry

Rocco DiPietro

Health Safety & Environmental Professional
Cocciardi and Associates Inc.

Donald W. Dunlevy

Director/Chairman
United Transportation Union

Dennis Eicker

Vice President
International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers, Local 5

Bernadette L. Heckman

Vice President, Safety and Control Loss
A.V. International, Inc.

Steve D. High

President
High Safety Consulting

Robert L. Holman

Principal Engineer
Merck & Co. Inc

Jack Kupchinsky

Director
Bureau of Workers' Compensation

Jay Lantzy

Director
Governor's Office of Labor Management Cooperation

Patrick V. Larkin, Esquire

President
Brokerage Professionals, Inc.

Betsy L. Lovensheimer, CIH

Executive Team Leader
Compliance Management International

Robert McCall

Director of Safety
Master Builder's Association of Western PA

Joyce A. McNash

Integrated Disability Management Medical Risk Manager
United States Steel Corporation

Barb Moody

Workperfect Coordinator
Health South

Robert O'Brien

Deputy Secretary for Safety & Labor Management
Relations
PA Department of Labor & Industry

Michael J. Neptune

National Sales Manager
National Traffic Safety Institute

Robert A. Quigley

Executive Director and General Counsel
Drug Free Pennsylvania, Inc.

Judith A. Resenic, RN

Program Manager
NoviCare Rehabilitation

Scott Schneider

Director, Occupational Safety & Health
Laborer's Health & Safety Fund of North America

Jim Sucic

Commonwealth Safety Coordinator
Office of Administration

Nick Tour

Works Chairman Health & Safety Committee
US Steel Clairton

Victor Tucci, MD

President
Three Rivers Health & Safety Inc.

Joe Virsack, MBA, CSP

Manager Consulting
Safety - Health & Environmental

Tom Ward

Director
Bureau of PENNSAFE

Roger Williams

Chief, Employee Benefits & Safety Division
Bureau of Human Resources

2. **Technical assistance and training** – Through the Bureau of Workers' Compensation's 5 percent discount program, auditing and training; and the Bureau of PENNSAFE Safety Committee trainers.
3. **Outreach** – Through conferences, speaking engagements, literature, educational materials and the Internet. Listed are some Web sites for reference:
 - www.state.pa.us, PA Keyword: workplace safety
 - www.state.pa.us, PA Keyword: worksafe pa
 - www.state.pa.us, PA Keyword: HandS
4. **Governor's Award for Safety Excellence** – Presented annually to select companies that demonstrate safety excellence through comprehensive safety programs and labor management cooperation. See pages 49-51 for the 2005 winners.

Governor's Occupational Safety and Health Conference

This two-day conference brings together individuals with special interest in the field of workplace health and safety to share ideas and to meet innovators in safety program design and technology.

Each fall, over 1,000 safety and health care professionals, business leaders, workers, educators and government leaders from across Pennsylvania attend the Governor's Occupational Safety and Health Conference.

Using labor-management cooperation, these professionals strive toward a common goal: to create a safer workplace and a healthier workforce, and to increase awareness of safety

issues in the workplace, the home and throughout local communities.

Featuring nationally-known speakers, the conference highlights one-on-one interaction during two days of workshops. Many of the workshops are created based on needs expressed by attendees at the previous year's conference. In addition, workshops with the most interest from attendees are repeated in the second session of the day to ensure that all participants have the opportunity to participate in the workshops of their interest.

The Hershey Lodge and Convention Center, centrally located and near major attractions including historic Lancaster County, the battlefield at Gettysburg and the Hershey Chocolate Factory, has been home to the conference for the past decade.

Governor's Award for Safety Excellence

Providing a safe work environment for Pennsylvania's workers requires complete commitment by employers and employees. For this reason, Governor Rendell's safety initiative will provide Pennsylvania employers and employees with the information and technical assistance needed to develop comprehensive safety practices in the workplace. It will also recognize the successful employer-employee joint safety programs, which result in the achievement of safety excellence.

The Governor's Award for Safety Excellence is a competitive award, as evidenced by the high number of nominations received annually. The information gained from these nominations provides valuable best practices that are shared across the state.

Any Pennsylvania employer is eligible for the Governor's Award for Safety Excellence; nominations for the award are voluntary. Information and criteria used to determine finalists include any established joint safety committee; level of labor and management cooperation in prevention efforts; a comprehensive safety plan with a commitment of resources and training; trends experienced in workplace injuries/illnesses over

the past five years; number, frequency and severity of workplace injuries/illnesses vs. industry standards; and innovation and strategic development of safety policy and approaches.

Initial review of all nominations is conducted by the Governor's Award for Safety Excellence Review Committee. Semi-finalists are then contacted for an on-site visit conducted by a member(s) of the department's safety team to review the nominee's comprehensive safety program. Site visit reports are written and distributed to the Governor's Award for Safety Excellence Review Committee for the determination of finalists. Recommendations are then forwarded to the secretary of Labor & Industry, who makes the final determination.

A special luncheon at the annual Governor's Occupational Safety and Health Conference, in Hershey, PA, is the stage for winner recognition and award presentations. The seven recipients of the award for 2005 appear on pages 49-51.

For a copy of the award application, visit: www.state.pa.us, PA Keyword: worksafe pa.

2005 Governor's Award for Safety Excellence Winners

Bedford County: L.B. Foster Company and Iron Workers Local 527, Bedford

L.B. Foster fabricates steel bridge decking and decreased its total incident rate from 34.1 percent in 2001, to 3.9 percent thanks to new safety programs. In 2003, the company established a certified Workplace Safety Committee and now all employees receive training in hazard communication, forklift, overhead crane and mobile crane operation.



Cameron County: GKN Sinter Metals, Emporium



GKN manufactures powdered metal components. The company's 770 employees have not had a lost-time accident since December 2001. Its certified Workplace Safety Committee and Lean Enterprise Task Force review specific operations and identify production and safety issues.



Delaware County: Nolan Painting Inc., Havertown

Nolan Painting is a small business with a commitment to the safety of all employees. Since 1997, the number of employees has increased by 300 percent and business volume has tripled. Still, employee safety remains at the forefront. A certified Workplace Safety Committee meets monthly and new employees must attend two-week safety training sessions. The company publishes a monthly newsletter, "Safety Talk," to communicate issues to its employees. Additionally, mandatory safety meetings are held monthly. Nolan Painting's incident rate is zero for the past three years.



Lancaster County: Wenger's Feed Mill Inc., Rheems



Wenger's Feed mill manufactures poultry and swine feed and is an egg producer. Wenger's initiated a health and safety program more than 24 years ago and established a certified Workplace Safety Committee in 1996 made up of management and labor representatives. Since 2001, Wenger's reduced total injuries by 20 percent and lost-time injuries by 60 percent. Wenger's recordable incident rate per 100 employees declined from 7.7 to 6.8 in an industry where the standard is 9.7 percent. During this same period,

Wenger's lost-time incident rate per 100 employees declined from 5.6 to 2.6 percent and its workers' compensation costs decreased from approximately \$200,000 per year to \$7,000 (in 2004).



Lehigh County: Lehigh Valley Hospital and Health Network (LVHHN), Allentown



LVHHN provides patient care in one of the largest teaching facilities in Pennsylvania. Since 2004, the hospital reduced its rate of needle-stick injuries by 20 percent, or 6 percent lower than the national rate, and reduced its OSHA recordable injuries and illnesses by 17 percent. It also achieved a 600 percent increase in documented incident investigations and a 5 percent reduction in lost workday cases. LVHHN was named one of Pennsylvania's 100 Best Places to Work, and has been included in the *U.S. News and World Reports*' "Guide to America's Best Hospitals" nine years in a row.

Montgomery County: McNeil Consumer & Specialty Pharmaceuticals, Fort Washington

A division of Johnson & Johnson, McNeil Consumer & Specialty Pharmaceuticals manufactures pharmaceuticals and over-the-counter medications, including Tylenol and other pain and cold medications. The Fort Washington facility uses 540 different chemicals and components to produce 165 different products. The facility has 2,500 employees operating around-the-clock and has reported zero lost workdays since 2002.



York County: BAE Systems and United Steelworkers of America Local 7687, York



BAE Systems designs and manufactures tracked military systems that employ 1,005 workers. The company has completed three million hours without a lost workday injury.

Over the past three years, BAE recorded a 33 percent reduction in its recordable injury rate, a 40 percent reduction in lost-workday case rate, and a 23 percent reduction in total injuries.

More Information from the Pennsylvania Bureau of Workers' Compensation

To obtain additional copies of the annual report or the publications listed on Pages 52 and 53, contact:
Pennsylvania Bureau of Workers' Compensation
1171 South Cameron St. Room 324
Harrisburg, PA 17104-2501
Telephone Number: (717) 783-5421

On the Web

(www.state.pa.us, PA Keyword: workers comp)

Check us out on the Web where you'll find more exciting and innovative workers' compensation features, including:

First Report of Injury (Formerly Employer's Report)

Web Submission

Log on at: www.state.pa.us, PA Keyword: workers comp. From here, click on "Online Services" (upper left-hand side of the page), then "Workers' Compensation Employer's Report of Injury."

This application allows users to file a First Report of Injury via the Internet. Electronic submission of this form is now mandatory.

Workers' Compensation Claim Petition

Log on at: www.state.pa.us, PA Keyword: workers comp. From here, click on "Online Services" (upper left-hand side of the page), then "Workers' Compensation Claim Petition."

This application allows users to file a Claim Petition form via the Internet.

Workers' Compensation Petition To:

Log on at: www.state.pa.us, PA Keyword: workers comp. From here, click on "Online Services" (upper left-hand side of the page), then "Workers' Compensation Petition To:"

This application allows users to file a Petition To: form via the Internet.

Workers' Compensation "Quick Links"

Log on at: www.state.pa.us, PA Keyword: workers comp.

Here you'll find more information on subjects such as: Workers' Compensation Act, Medical Fee Schedule, Health and Safety, Claim Forms Completion Guide – Tip Sheets, Obtaining WC Hearing Transcripts, Alternative Dispute Resolution, Kids' Chance, Inc. of Pennsylvania, Bureau Publications and more!

Workers' Compensation Subpoena

Log on at: www.state.pa.us, PA Keyword: workers comp. From here, click on "Online Services" (upper left-hand side of the page), then "Workers' Compensation Subpoena."

This feature allows users to access the subpoena online, fill in the blanks, print the form and mail it to a workers' compensation judge along with a written request for the judge to issue the subpoena.

Publications Available from the Bureau of Workers' Compensation:

Employer Information

- Employer's Guide to Workers' Compensation Insurance in Pennsylvania
 - Information on loss cost multipliers, classification codes, insurance fraud, safety committee incentive program, etc.
- Employer's Guide to Self-Insuring Workers' Compensation (LIBC-300)
 - Information on how to self-insure your workers' compensation coverage.
- Employer Information (LIBC-200)
Includes key aspects of the Workers' Compensation Act which relate specifically to employers.
- Self-Insurance Regulations (*PA Bulletin, Vol. 25, No. 41, October 14, 1995*)
- Claim Forms Completion Guide - Tip Sheets (LIBC-770) *Samples of 30 bureau forms along with instructions on their proper completion.*

Injured Workers' Information

- Workers' Compensation & the Injured Worker (LIBC-100) *General information on the rights and responsibilities of injured workers under the law.*
- Q & As about Funded Employment
General information on funded employment as it relates to workers' compensation recipients.

Medical Cost Containment Information

- Medical Cost Containment Regulations Reference *Workers' compensation medical cost containment regulations highlights.*

Health and Safety Materials

- Health and Safety Regulations *PA Bulletin, Vol. 31, No. 28, July 14, 2001*
- "Application for Certification of Workplace Safety Committee" Completion Guide (LIBC-372)
- "Certification Renewal Affidavit of Workplace Safety Committee" Completion Guide (LIBC-372R)
- State Certified Workplace Safety Committee Program (LIBC-733)

Miscellaneous

- Pennsylvania Work Injuries & Illnesses Report *Calendar year statistics on PA work-related injuries, illnesses and fatalities.*
- News & Notes *Bureau newsletter on policies, procedures and updates on the law.*
- Section 305 Prosecutions *A guide to aid PA's district attorneys in prosecuting employers who fail to carry the required workers' compensation insurance coverage as outlined in Section 305 of the PA Workers' Compensation Act.*

For other information or questions regarding the PA workers' compensation program, e-mail, call or write to the bureau:

CLAIMS INFORMATION SERVICES

- E-mail: ra-li-bwc-helpline@state.pa.us
- Local calls and calls outside PA: (717) 772-4447
- Toll free inside PA: 1-800-482-2383
- TTY (Only people with hearing loss) Toll Free inside PA: 1-800-362-4228
- TTY local and calls outside PA: (717) 772-4991

EMPLOYER INFORMATION SERVICES (717) 772-3702

CERTIFIED EMPLOYER NETWORK:

For referrals to employers who have volunteered to provide assistance in establishing workplace safety committees, call:
(717) 772-1917

Join our Mailing List

To receive future issues of the bureau's annual report and the *News & Notes* newsletter, complete the form below, cut on dotted line and mail to:

Bureau of Workers' Compensation
Attn: Information Services Section
1171 South Cameron Street, Room 324
Harrisburg, PA 17104-2501

Please add me to your mailing list for regular receipt of future annual reports and the *News & Notes*.

Name: _____
(name of company or organization, where applicable)

Mailing Address: _____
(street address)

_____ (city) _____ (state) _____ (zip)

County: _____

E-mail address: _____

Please check box which best represents your affiliation:

Employer Union Attorney Health Care Industry

Insurance Industry Third Party Administrator Other: _____

Copies of the PA Workers' Compensation Act are available for purchase from:

**State Bookstore of PA Commonwealth
Keystone Building
Plaza Level
400 North Street
Harrisburg, PA 17120
(717) 787-5109**

To access the Act online, log on at www.state.pa.us, PA Keyword: workers comp. From there, click on Bureau of Workers' Compensation, then WC Act under Publications.

BWC Web Information: www.state.pa.us, PA Keyword: workers comp.

Telephone Directory

<i>Field Offices</i>	<i>Street Address & Zip Code</i>	<i>Telephone No.</i>
<i>Aliquippa Office</i>	<i>Sheffield Prof. Bldg., 2020 Main St., 15001</i>	<i>(724) 378-1863</i>
<i>Allentown Office</i>	<i>160 Hamilton St., Ste. 200, 18101</i>	<i>(610) 821-6535</i>
<i>Altoona Office</i>	<i>615 Howard Ave., Ste. 202, 16601</i>	<i>(814) 946-7355</i>
<i>Bristol Office</i>	<i>1242 New Rodgers Rd., Box 802, 19007</i>	<i>(215) 781-3274</i>
<i>Brookville Office</i>	<i>395 Main St., 15825</i>	<i>(814) 849-5382</i>
<i>Bureau Headquarters</i>	<i>1171 S. Cameron St., Room 324, 17104-2501</i>	<i>(717) 783-5421</i>
<i>Clearfield Office</i>	<i>306 E. Locust St., 16830-2415</i>	<i>(814) 765-6398</i>
<i>Erie Office</i>	<i>3400 Lovell Place, 13th & Holland Sts., 16503</i>	<i>(814) 871-4632</i>
<i>Greensburg Office</i>	<i>599 Sells Lane, 15601</i>	<i>(724) 832-5310</i>
<i>Harrisburg Judges Office</i>	<i>East Gate Ctr., 1010 N. 7th St., Rm. 319, 17102-1400</i>	<i>(717) 783-4419</i>
<i>Hazleton Office</i>	<i>1201 N. Church St., Bldg. A, Ste. 203, 18202</i>	<i>(570) 459-3840</i>
<i>Johnstown Office</i>	<i>607 Main St., Ste. 100, 15901</i>	<i>(814) 533-2494</i>
<i>Lancaster Office</i>	<i>315 W. James St., Ste. 206, 17603</i>	<i>(717) 299-7591</i>
<i>Malvern Office</i>	<i>72 Lancaster Ave., 2nd Fl., 19355</i>	<i>(610) 251-2878</i>
<i>New Castle Office</i>	<i>101 S. Mercer St., 16101</i>	<i>(724) 656-3084</i>
<i>Philadelphia Office</i>	<i>1400 Spring Garden St., State Office Bldg., 19130</i>	<i>(215) 560-2488</i>
<i>NE Philadelphia Office</i>	<i>2901 Grant Ave., Ste. 900, 19114</i>	<i>(215) 560-2125</i>
<i>Pittsburgh Office</i>	<i>933 Penn Ave., Ste. 300, 15222</i>	<i>(412) 565-5277</i>
<i>Pottsville Office</i>	<i>112 S. Claude A. Lord Blvd., 17901</i>	<i>(570) 621-3146</i>
<i>Reading Office</i>	<i>625 Cherry St., Ste. 150, 19602</i>	<i>(610) 621-2370</i>
<i>Scranton Office</i>	<i>400 Spruce St., Ste. 500, 18503</i>	<i>(570) 963-4580</i>
<i>Uniontown Office</i>	<i>108 N. Beeson Blvd. Suite 200, 15401</i>	<i>(724) 439-7420</i>
<i>Upper Darby Office</i>	<i>1500 Garrett Rd., Barclay Sq. Ctr., 2nd Fl., 19082</i>	<i>(610) 284-6913</i>
<i>Washington Office</i>	<i>Millcraft Ctr., 90 W. Chestnut St., 15301</i>	<i>(724) 223-4595</i>
<i>Wilkes-Barre Office</i>	<i>101-105 N. Main St., 18701</i>	<i>(570) 826-2577</i>
<i>Williamsport Office</i>	<i>208 W. 3rd St., Rear, Ste. 202, 17701</i>	<i>(570) 327-3735</i>

Information Services

Claims Information Services:

Inside Pennsylvania (toll free)	(800) 482-2383
Local & Outside Pennsylvania	(717) 772-4447

Employer Information Services: (717) 772-3702

TTY (for hearing and speech impaired):

Inside Pennsylvania (toll free)	(800) 362-4228
Local & Outside Pennsylvania	(717) 772-4991

Contact Personnel	Location	Title	Telephone No.
Adams, Stacey	Harrisburg HQ	Sec. Sup., H & S	(717) 772-1917
Arrington, Ollie	Philadelphia DO	WCJ	(215) 560-2488
Bachman, Patricia	NE Philadelphia DO	WCJ	(215) 560-2125
Baker, Paul	Pottsville DO	WCJ	(570) 621-3146
Baldys, Karl	Williamsport DO	WCJ	(570) 327-3735
Barbieri, Christina	Philadelphia DO	WCJ	(215) 560-2488
Bell, Linda	Harrisburg HQ	Supv., Admin. Div.-OCR	(717) 783-5421
Benedict, Alfred	New Castle DO	WCJ	(724) 656-3084
Benischek, Robert	Lancaster DO	WCJ	(717) 299-7591
Bivens, Linda	Harrisburg HQ	Sec., Adj. Dir.	(717) 783-5421
Blevins, Donna	Harrisburg HQ	Sec., Claims Mgmt	(717) 772-0621
Bloom, Irving	Greensburg DO	WCJ	(724) 832-5310
Bowers, Debra	Philadelphia DO	WCJ	(215) 560-2488
Briston, Pamela	Pittsburgh DO	WCJ	(412) 565-5277
Burman, Martin	Malvern DO	WCJ	(610) 251-2878
Callahan, Bonnie	Philadelphia DO	WCJ	(215) 560-2488
Caravaggio, Susan	Pottsville DO	WCJM, Eastern Region	(570) 621-3146
Cercone, Susan	Aliquippa DO	WCJ	(724) 378-1863
Cicola, David	Harrisburg HQ	Director, Adjudication	(717) 783-5421
Clark, Charles	Harrisburg DO	WCJ	(717) 783-4419
Cohen, Nathan	Pittsburgh DO	WCJ	(412) 565-5277
Coholan, Anne	Uniontown DO	WCJ	(724) 439-7420
Cook, Claudia	Harrisburg HQ	Admin.	(717) 783-5421
Costelnock, Paul	Greensburg DO	WCJ	(724) 832-5310
Crum, Elizabeth	Harrisburg	Deputy Sec., Comp. & Ins.	(717) 787-5082
Cummings, Patrick	Scranton DO	WCJ	(570) 963-4580
Dean, Mary	Harrisburg HQ	Helpline Mgr., Info. Svcs	(717) 783-5421
Deeley, James	Harrisburg DO	WCJ	(717) 783-4419
Desimone, Francis	Johnstown DO	WCJ	(814) 533-2494
Devlin, Thomas	Philadelphia DO	WCJ	(215) 560-2488
Dietrich, Wayne	Harrisburg DO	WCJ	(717) 783-4419
DiLorenzo, Kathleen	Lancaster DO	WCJ	(717) 299-7591
Dinsmore, Thomas	Harrisburg HQ	Chief, Claims Mgmt.	(717) 783-5421
Dlin, Geoffrey	Allentown DO	WCJ	(610) 821-6535
Doman, Bruce	Allentown DO	WCJ	(610) 821-6535
Doneker, Beverly	Allentown DO	WCJ	(610) 821-6535
Dupin, Kathleen	Harrisburg HQ	Info. Officer, Info. Svcs.	(717) 783-5421
Eader, Brian	Harrisburg DO	WCJ	(717) 783-4419
Eppley, Harvey	Harrisburg HQ	Mgr. Analyst, Self-Insurance..	(717) 783-4476
Evans, Darrel	Harrisburg HQ	Supv., Adm.-Mailroom	(717) 783-5421
Fitzpatrick, Anne	Harrisburg HQ	Hearing Officer, Dir. Off.	(717) 783-5421
Formica, Audrey	Allentown DO	WCJ	(610) 821-6535
Getty, Charles	Johnstown DO	WCJ	(814) 533-2494
Gilbert, Alan	Philadelphia DO	WCJ	(215) 560-2488
Goodwin, Nancy	Philadelphia DO	WCJ	(215) 560-2488
Grady, Joseph	Scranton DO	WCJ	(570) 963-4580
Guyton, Ada	Greensburg DO	WCJ	(724) 832-5310

Contact Personnel	Location	Title	Telephone No.
Hagan, Joseph	Philadelphia DO	WCJ	(215) 560-2488
Hakun, Joseph	Malvern DO	WCJ	(610) 251-2878
Harris, Aida	NE Philadelphia DO	WCJ	(215) 560-2125
Harris, Alan	Wilkes-Barre DO	WCJ	(570) 826-2577
Heidler, Randa	Harrisburg HQ	Supv., Cal. Review-Claims	(717) 772-0618
Henry, David	Pittsburgh DO	WCJ	(412) 565-5277
Hetrick, Michael	Lancaster DO	WCJ	(717) 299-7591
Hines, Thomas	Malvern DO	WCJ	(610) 251-2878
Hooks, Sharon	Johnstown DO	AO, Central District	(814) 533-2494
Ignasiak, Cheryl	Pittsburgh DO	WCJ	(412) 565-5277
Ingram, Deborah	Harrisburg HQ	Chief, Admin. Div.	(717) 783-5421
Jefferson, Michael	Harrisburg HQ	Ppty. & Cas. Ins. Actuary	(717) 783-4476
Jones, Eric	Washington DO	WCJ	(724) 223-4595
Jones, Perry	New Castle DO	WCJ	(724) 656-3084
Kelley, Susan	Philadelphia DO	WCJ	(215) 560-2488
Kilgore, Leandra	Harrisburg HQ	Supv., Sub. Docs.-Claims	(717) 772-0619
Knehr, George	Harrisburg HQ	Chief, Self-Insurance	(717) 783-4476
Knox, Terry	Reading DO	WCJ	(610) 621-2370
Koll, Michael	Clearfield DO	WCJ	(814) 765-6398
Krass, Denise	NE Philadelphia DO	WCJ	(215) 560-2125
Kupchinsky, John	Harrisburg HQ	Bureau Director	(717) 783-5421
Kutz, Thomas	Wilkes-Barre DO	WCJ	(570) 826-2577
Kuzma, Thomas	Harrisburg HQ	Dep. Chief Counsel, Legal Div.	(717) 783-4467
Laughman, Tammy	Harrisburg HQ	Claims Processing Mgr.-Claims	(717) 772-0618
Laurin, Barbara	Pittsburgh DO	AO, Western District	(412) 565-5277
Lawton, Charles	Washington DO	WCJ	(724) 223-4595
Liddy, John	Malvern DO	WCJ	(610) 251-2878
Liebau, John	Upper Darby DO	WCJ	(610) 284-6913
Lincicome, Francine	Philadelphia DO	WCJ	(215) 560-2488
Longson, Lac	Harrisburg HQ	Ppty. & Cas. Ins. Actuary	(717) 783-4476
Lorine, Carl	Upper Darby DO	WCJ	(610) 284-6913
Lowman, William	Uniontown DO	WCJ	(724) 439-7420
Lugo, Carmen	Erie DO	WCJ	(814) 871-4632
Maffei, Gerald	Harrisburg HQ	Mgr., Claims Op. Sec.-Claims	(717) 772-0618
Magee, Melissa	Harrisburg HQ	Petitions & Rec. Mgr.-Claims	(717) 787-3274
Makin, Sarah	Upper Darby DO	WCJ	(610) 284-6913
McCormick, Andrea	Philadelphia DO	WCJ	(215) 560-2488
McManus, Joseph	Bristol DO	WCJ	(215) 781-3274
Mirasola, Jude	Harrisburg HQ	Supv., Records-Claims	(717) 787-3361
Montville, Linda	Wilkes-Barre DO	AO, Eastern District	(570) 826-2577
Mullen, Anna Marie	Altoona DO	WCJ	(814) 946-7355
Mulligan, Angela	Harrisburg HQ	Supv., Admin-Clerical Staff	(717) 783-5421
Nathanson, Seymour	Malvern DO	WCJ	(610) 251-2878
Negley, Len	Harrisburg HQ	Chief, Health & Safety	(717) 772-1917
Olin, Scott	Philadelphia DO	WCJ	(215) 560-2488
Oliver, Persifor	Pittsburgh DO	WCJM, Western District	(412) 565-5277
Parker, Rosalia	Pittsburgh DO	WCJ	(412) 565-5277
Pastewka, Edward	Erie DO	WCJ	(814) 871-4632
Peckmann, Karl	Harrisburg DO	WCJ	(717) 783-4419

Contact Personnel	Location	Title	Telephone No.
Pe leak, Mark	Wilkes-Barre DO	WCJ	(570) 826-2577
Perry, Peter	Reading DO	WCJ	(610) 621-2370
Polin, Larry	Harrisburg HQ	Ppty. & Cas. Ins. Actuary	(717) 783-4476
Poorman, Donald	Philadelphia DO	WCJ	(610) 251-2878
Puhala, Brian	Reading DO	WCJ	(610) 621-2370
Rabold, William	Harrisburg HQ	Mgr., Audits	(717) 783-5421
Rapkin, Wayne	Hazleton DO	WCJ	(570) 459-3840
Redding, Harold	Harrisburg HQ	Mgr., Report & Audit Proc.	(717) 772-1636
Reitz, Shellie	Harrisburg HQ	Reg. Ad. & Ed. Outreach-Claims	(717) 783-5421
Rosen, Michael	Bristol DO	WCJ	(215) 781-3274
Santoro, Pamela	Philadelphia DO	WCJ	(215) 560-2488
Scott, Beverly	Harrisburg HQ	Supv., Petitions-Claims	(717) 787-3274
Seacrist, Geoffrey	Brookville DO	WCJ	(814) 849-5382
Sebastianelli, Joseph	Wilkes-Barre DO	WCJ	(570) 826-2577
Seelig, Todd	Philadelphia DO	WCJ	(215) 560-2488
Shaffer, Dan	Harrisburg HQ	Analyst, Self-Ins.	(717) 783-4476
Simmons, Robert	Philadelphia DO	WCJ	(215) 560-2488
Slom, David	NE Philadelphia DO	WCJ	(215) 560-2125
Snyder, A. Michael	NE Philadelphia DO	WCJ	(215) 560-2125
Spizer, Howard	Scranton DO	WCJ	(570) 963-4580
Stapleton, James	Pottsville DO	WCJ	(570) 621-3146
Steiner, Robert	New Castle DO	WCJ	(724) 656-3084
Stokes, Joseph	Upper Darby DO	WCJ	(610) 284-6913
Strawser, John	Harrisburg HQ	Mgr., Compliance Sec.	(717) 787-3567
Tarantelli, Christina	Lancaster DO	WCJ	(717) 299-7591
Titus, Terry	Harrisburg HQ	Mgr., Statistical Info-Claims	(717) 787-3361
Tobin, Linda	Pittsburgh DO	WCJ	(412) 565-5277
Torrey, David	Pittsburgh DO	WCJ	(412) 565-5277
Urbany, Susan	Harrisburg HQ	Analyst, Self-Ins.	(717) 783-4476
Valley, Kathleen	Pittsburgh DO	WCJ	(412) 565-5277
Vonada, Robert	Altoona DO	WCJ	(814) 946-7355
Walsh, Kenneth	Williamsport DO	WCJ	(570) 327-3735
Weiant, Scott	Harrisburg HQ	Mgr., H&S Cert./Education	(717) 772-1917
Wertheimer, Karen	Bristol DO	WCJM, Southeastern District	(215) 781-3274
Weyl, David	Harrisburg DO	WCJ	(717) 783-4419
Williamson, Francis	Harrisburg DO	WCJ	(717) 783-4419
Wiskemann, Gina	Harrisburg HQ	Mgr., Reg. Ad./Ed. Outreach-Claims	(717) 772-0619
Wright, Jean	Erie DO	WCJ	(814) 871-4632
Wunsch, Eileen	Harrisburg HQ	Chief, Health Care Servs. Rev.	(717) 772-1900
Zimmerman, Penny	Harrisburg HQ	Supv., Compensable Docs.	(717) 772-0619

Legend

- AO Administrative Officer
- DO District Office
- HQ Headquarters
- WCJ Workers' Compensation Judge
- WCJM Workers' Compensation Judge Manager



DEPARTMENT OF
LABOR & INDUSTRY
COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA

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