

Section Name: Workers' Compensation

Activities and accomplishments:

The section held its 26<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting on May 14, 2010 at the Salishan Lodge at Gleneden Beach, Oregon. At the meeting, the section elected the following officers and members-at-large to serve on the Executive Committee:

Officers:

ALJ Chuck Mundorff –Chair  
Dale Johnson – Chair Elect  
Julie Masters –Treasurer  
Norm Cole–Secretary  
Matthew Fisher – Past Chair

Members-at-Large:

James L. Edmunson  
Tom Harrell  
Rob Guarassi  
ALJ Jacqueline Jacobson  
Doug Rock  
Steve Schoenfeld  
Ron Bohy  
ALJ Kate Donnelly  
Jennifer Roumell  
ALJ Nick Sencer  
Dennis VavRosky  
Keith Semple

The meeting was held in conjunction with a two-day seminar. The seminar was approved for 8.75 general MCLE credits. The program included various legal and medical speakers covering topics relevant to practitioners of workers' compensation on both sides of the Bar.

The section also sponsored a Bench/Bar Ethics CLE on November 5, 2010 free of charge to its members. The conference covered three hours of general ethics credits addressing common issues facing both sides of the workers' compensation section's bar, and included presentations from Administrative Law Judges and Court of Appeals Judges. The CLE was held at the Willamette Valley Vineyards in Turner, Oregon. The conference included a free lunch for all section members.

Budget:

The section approved its 2001 budget, which is attached to this report.

## Recommendations for 2011

The executive committee will continue with monthly meetings held in accordance with the section bylaws. The standing committees will continue to meet for the purpose of meeting various goals laid out by the executive committee. A key focus for the next year will be ensuring the Going Forward Committee execute the mission of putting on at least one CLE directed at teaching a “nuts and bolts” of workers’ compensation, with the goal being to attract new practitioners to the section. Emphasis will be placed on new law school graduates to educate them about the opportunities in workers’ compensation law.

### Legislative issues:

Monitor proposed and potential legislation and rules under the Board and Department; provide advice to the committee regarding the advisability of proposed legislation or rule changes, and review current workers’ compensation laws to keep the committee apprised of new developments.

### Professionalism:

Advance the interests of section members by sponsoring seminars and programs dealing with professionalism and ethics; consider means by which the section can improve relations between the membership and those providing services to injured workers and employers, clients and members of the public. The goal for 2011 is to put on at least one Bench/Bar ethics CLE, although this standing subcommittee has suggested an interest in changing the venue, and will look into opportunities to do so in the following year.

### Access to Justice:

Identify means by which the section can facilitate the use of the workers’ compensation forum by practitioners and members of the public; educate lawyers, judges and those providing services to injured workers and employers regarding the potential impact of cultural differences upon use of the workers’ compensation system.

### Salishan/CLE:

Plan and coordinate the annual section business meeting and CLE. The 2011 annual meeting/CLE will again be held at Salishan Lodge on May 13 – 14, 2011.

### Communications:

Monitor the development and production of the section’s website and continue efforts in getting relevant practice information to all section members.

### Douglas Daughtry Award Committee:

This subcommittee is made of the three most recent past section chairs and meets to make recommendations to the full committee on the merit of nominations for the award. This committee will began meeting early in 2011 to start accepting nominations and making recommendations to the full committee for the award, which, if given, will be presented at section's Annual Meeting at Salishan.

#### Going Forward Committee:

This committee focuses on the sustainability of our practice, including recruitment of new lawyers and expanding our practice area. Initial focus will be on recruiting law students. The committee will help prepare basic CLEs geared toward new members and develop a speakers bureau for lunch time talks. This committee has been directed to work with the Bar's CLE department in producing a program. The committee will also work with the Bar's new Mentoring Program to fully and actively participate per guidance of the Bar and the Supreme Court.

#### Technology Committee:

This newly created committee focuses on exploring ways to benefit section members and the forum by utilizing advances in technology. The committee will continue to explore implementation of systems that promote efficiency and economy in the workers' compensation arena.

Respectfully submitted: Matthew M. Fisher (CH), ALJ Chuck Mundorff (CH-Elect), Matthew Lansing Roy (Past CH), Julie Masters (TR), Dale C. Johnson (SEC), James L. Edmunson, Robert J. Guarrasi, Keith Semple, ALJ Nick Sencer, ALJ Jacqueline Jacobson, Jennifer R. Roumell, Adam T. Stamper, Norm Cole, Steven Schoenfeld, Ron Bohy, ALJ Kate Donnelly, Dennis R. VavRosky, Derek Johnson (BC), Suzanne Cushing (BL).