

## Workers' Compensation Annual Report

### Activities and accomplishments:

Executive Committee Meetings: Monthly Section Executive Committee meetings were held. The Minutes were taken by John Oswald, Secretary, and can be accessed on the Section's website.

Annual Meeting: The Section's 34th Annual Meeting was held on May 13, 2016 at the Salishan Lodge at Gleneden Beach, Oregon. The meeting was coupled with a two-day CLE, which was held on May 13 and 14. This CLE was very well-attended by both sides of the bar, judges and Board members; the total number of people attending the CLE was 167. Moreover, due to the hard work of the Salishan Committee the expenses for this year's annual meeting came in under budget. The CLE was approved for 9.0 MCLE credits. The program included various legal and medical speakers covering topics relevant to practitioners on both sides of the Bar.

The section elected the following officer and members-at-large to serve on the Executive Committee in 2017:

Officers for 2017: ALJ Jenny Ogawa, Chair, John Oswald, Chair Elect, Katherine M. Caldwell, Secretary, Ron Bohy, Treasurer, Tom Harrell, Past Chair

Members-at-Large: Keith Semple, Bin Chen, Linda D. Conratt, Christine Frost, Phillip H, Garrow, ALJ Bruce D. Smith, ALJ Geoffrey G. Wren, Joe Di Bartolomeo, Allison Lesh, Kathryn Olney, Jovanna Patrick, Martin Fisher

Bench/Bar CLE: The Section also sponsored a Bench/Bar Ethics CLE on October 21, 2016. The CLE was held at the Salem Convention Center in Salem, Oregon. The conference covered three hours of discussion regarding various topics. The seminar was very well attended and was approved for 3.0 MCLE credits - 1.0 Ethics credit, 1.0 Elder Abuse credit and 1.0 general credit. This seminar, which included lunch, was provided free of charge to section members.

Professionalism Award: After conferring with the State Bar, the Executive Committee has updated its Professionalism Award Procedures and Criteria to better comply with current public meeting laws.

This year's recipient of the Section's Professional Award was ALJ Jill Reichers.

Budget:

The 2017 Section budget was approved by the committee at the November 14, 2016. The section is projected to be under budget for its budgeted expenses at year's end. The section will continue to balance its expenses and revenues, while maintaining a reasonable fund balance and serving its membership. For 2017, the Executive Committee has decided NOT to: increase the section membership dues of \$25, increase the registration fees for the 2017 annual meeting/Salishan CLE, or to charge section members for the Bench Bar Forum.

Legislative issues:

The Executive Committee approved a rule change proposal from the section to DCBS that would provide for insurers, WCB and WCD to attach a one page warning to time sensitive forms and notices. The warning would include a brief paragraph in multiple languages (currently Spanish, Russian, Vietnamese and Chinese based on demographics) advising the worker of the importance of the document and where to turn for assistance.

Matters considered/Matters pending:

The Executive Committee will continue with monthly meetings held in accordance with the Section Bylaws.

Executive Standing Committees: Legislative & Rules, Nominating Committee, Professionalism Award, Salishan CLE, Access to Justice, Bench/Bar CLE, Going Forward

These standing committees will continue to meet on an as needed basis to function with the following general goals:

Recommendation for 2017:

New Chair Jenny Ogawa will outline Sections goals in her January report. It is likely that the Section will continue its effort to increase communication with members, expand access to attorneys for unrepresented workers, and work with the Board on improving the portal and implementing other technologic advances, and furthering efforts to interest new lawyers in a workers' compensation practice.

The Section will continue to sponsor its two annual CLEs.

Respectfully submitted: Tom Harrell (CH), Jenny Ogawa (CH-Elect), Keith Semple (Past CH), Ronald L. Bohy (TR), John M. Oswald (SEC), Katherine M. Caldwell, Bin Chen, Linda D. Conratt, Joe Di Bartolomeo, Alana C. DiCicco, Christine Coffelt Frost, Philip Harry Garrow, Allison B. Lesh, M Kathryn Olney, Steven Mark Schoenfeld, Bruce D. Smith, Geoffrey G. Wren, Timothy L. Williams (BC), Suzanne Cushing (BL).