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Received 1/29/09
293
Public Hearing 1/28/09

My name is Linda Ares Palermo. I reside in Stratford, CT. I am here today to Speak on the subject matter of three reappointment to the Workers Compensation Commission, Amado Vargas first appointed by former Governor Lowell Weicker 15 years ago on July 19, 1993. Ernie Walker first appointed by John Rowland, 10 years ago on March 10, 1999. And Nancy Salarno first appointed by John Rowland, 5 years ago on August 15, 2003. And the appointment of the Honorable Joette Katz, to be a Justice of the Supreme Court. First I will speak on the subject matter of the Workers Compensation Commissioners. I am basing my comments on the length of a compensation claim that is approximately twenty years old, which was found to be compensable, (prior to the reforms); my experience before the Commission inclusive of my security number and medical records being compromised, and A January 2007 FOI Request made of the Chairman seeking to review and inspect Records, over which the Chairman should have control. The FOI report revealed there are more or less 100,000 open compensation claims (see pg 4) that are 1-20 years or more old. 3,322 attorneys and or law firms handing these claims; some with multiple listing who continue to earn. There are approximately 796 Insurance Companies and or claims adjusting companies insuring these claims; some with multiple listings. Recently I read that Commissioner's can't force any Insurance Company to settle any claims. It ceases to amaze me to say the least that any Commissioners well versed with the "Act", doesn't know there are provision to fine Insurance companies and or Trust, for undue delay in settling a matter, among of things. What about the large profits insurance companies are making, and pyramiding off of it by investing that profit. I have appeared before Vargas and Walker some time ago, in those 20 years, however I do not recall appearing before Nancy Salarno, but never-the less based on my experiences and information gather through the responses to FOI request, I can not in good conscious support them, because it is my belief as Commissioners they fail to upholding the intent of the Worker's Compensation Act. What about the truly injured?

I have appeared before the Honorable Joette Katz, at the Superior Court, in the Fairfield JD. I orally argued a matter which involved "Insurance Company". We spoke and maybe we didn't exactly speak in chambers. I commend the Honorable Joette Katz, respect for a Pro Se, she didn't turn her back on me unlike some other Judges, etc. For this I respect and support her elevation as a Justice in the Supreme Court.

Submitted by: Linda Ares Palermo, ASLAP

Attachment: Segments 4pgs of FOI Response

Office of the Chairman
Capitol Place
21 Oak Street, 4th Floor Suites
Hartford, Connecticut 06106-8011

Tel: (860) 493-1500
Fax: (860) 247-1361
Web site: <http://wcc.state.ct.us>



State of Connecticut
WORKERS' COMPENSATION
COMMISSION

Commissioners

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James J. Metro
George Waldron
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Jesse M. Frankl
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Leonard S. Paoletta
Ernie R. Walker
Howard H. Belkin
Charles F. Senich
Michele D. Truglia
Nancy E. Salerno
Scott A. Barton
Peter C. Mlynarczyk

January 17, 2007

Ms. Linda Palermo Ayres
46 Vought Place
Stratford, CT 06614

Re: FOI Request

Dear Ms. Ayres:

The following information is all of the data we have available to the questions posed in your Freedom of Information Request dated January 3, 2007 and received via fax in the Chairman's Office on January 3, 2007 at 4:15 p.m. Accordingly, I sent you a letter on January 8, 2007 acknowledging your request.

1. *How many workers compensation claims on file remain unsettled?*

Response: As of January 17, 2007, the Commission has 548,341 claims in its database: 469,212 remain open and 79,129 have been closed. It is contrary to the statutory purpose of the Workers' Compensation Act to settle claims. Workers compensation claims remain open so the injured worker with an accepted claim may seek medical treatment and associated lost wages for the remainder of their lifetime.

2. *How many of these cases are*

<i>1-5 years old?</i>	Response:	129,165
<i>6-10 years old?</i>	Response:	163,928
<i>11-15 years old?</i>	Response:	169,861

3. *Who are the claims Adjusting companies in each of the above cases?*

Response: We do not have this information because it is not tracked in our database.

4. *Who are the Insurance Companies in each of the above cases?*

Response: please see the attached list

5. *Is there pending litigation in any of the above claims?*

Response: Yes

6. *Who are the attorneys of record in those claims that remain unresolved?*

Response: please see the attached list

7. *How many of these cases have Medicare liens against them?*

Response: Unknown; the Workers' Compensation Commission does not receive this information.

8. *Have the Medicare liens been satisfied?*

Response: Unknown; the Workers' Compensation Commission does not receive this information.

9. *How many settlements have been made for in the past 20 years in the following monetary categories: \$0 - 10,000? 10,000 - 25,000? 26,000 - 75,000? 75,000 - 100,000? 100,000 - 150,000?*

Response: Unknown; this information is not maintained in the database.

10. *In the above referenced claims what is the margin of profit that an insurance trust and or adjustment company is allowed to make?*

Response: Unknown; the Workers' Compensation Commission does not receive this information.

11. *How many claimants have noticed you that they have filed complaints with the Medicare Fraud Unit as a result of liens not being satisfied?*

Response: None

12. *How many claimants have noticed you that they have filed complaints with the U.S. Medicare Fraud Unit as a result of their claim not being settled?*

Response: None

13. *How many of your Commissioners reported to you, that any claimant has report through to them, that the alleged fraudulent activity is taking place in the Commission has been reported to the U.S. Medicare Fraud Unit?*

Response: None

14. *Are insurance companies, trusts and adjusters, obligated to operate in good faith when coming before the Compensation Commission*

Response: Yes

15. *How many complaints have you entertained regarding bad faith dealing on the part of any insurance, trust and or adjustment company and adjuster, since you were appointed chairman?*

Response: None

14. *Which law firm(s) and or attorneys(s) names appear in the compensation records reflecting, the number of cases they appear in?*

Response: please see the attached list

15. *The names of the law firm(s) and or attorneys(s) who are appearing or have appeared in the cases that are 3-5 years old, 6-10 years old, 11-15 years old, 16-20 years old?*

Response: please see the attached list

16. *What is the average time it takes to settle a claim? 1-3 years? 3-5 years?*

Response: It is contrary to the statutory purpose of the Workers' Compensation Act to settle claims. Workers compensation claims remain open so the injured worker with an accepted claim may seek medical treatment and associated lost wages for the remainder of their lifetime.

17. *What is the average time a claimant has to wait for an Informal Hearing?*

Response: 4.1 weeks

18. *What is the time period a claimant must wait for an Emergency Hearing?*

Response: 10 days

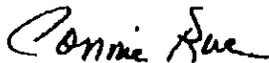
19. *The name of the former governor who appointed you as chairperson?*

Response: John Rowland

20. *Name of the previous Chairperson?*

Response: Jesse M. Frankl

Very truly yours,



Connie Rue
FOI Liaison
Encs.

District Office	# Claims # Open	# W/ STP	# W VA	# Closed	Age of Claim Based on Date of Injury					# Appealed	
					0 - 5	6 - 10	11 - 15	16 - 20	> 20		
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Norwich	74029	62863	11681	14839	11166	15551	21791	24358	8104	4225	89
New Haven	72701	61268	11150	18440	11433	16153	22381	25295	6540	2332	150
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	548341	469212	78563	135131	79129	129165	163928	169861	58327	27060	916

Note
 1. There are approx. 3,322 attorneys and of Law Firms handling these claims. Some are with multiple listings.
 2. There are approx 796 Insurance Companies and of Claims Adjusting Companies handling these claims. Some are multiple listing.

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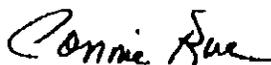
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