# REGULAR MEETING OF THE OKLAHOMA WORKERS' COMPENSATION COMMISSION

#### **APPEALS**

Friday, November 3, 2023 9:00 a.m. Commission En Banc Courtroom 1915 N. Stiles Ave. Oklahoma City, Oklahoma www.wcc.ok.gov

#### **AGENDA**

CALL TO OR	DERCommission's Chair, Chairman Russell
ROLL CALL.	Presiding Appellate Officer, Commissioner Tilly
BUSINESS	Presiding Appellate Officer, Commissioner Tilly

#### \*STATEMENT OF COMPLIANCE BY CHAIRMAN\*

## THE FOLLOWING MATTERS ARE PRESENTED FOR CONSIDERATION AND ACTION, IF ANY, DEEMED APPROPRIATE BY THE COMMISSION

#### A. MINUTES:

• The drafted Minutes of the Regular Appeals Meeting of September 22, 2023 will be considered for approval.

# B. <u>Appeal Hearings before the Commission En Banc from Orders Issued by the Commission's Administrative Law Judges</u>

The hearings before the Commission en banc will be conducted pursuant to the authority and jurisdiction of the Administrative Workers' Compensation Act, Title 85A O.S. § 1 et seq., and the Workers' Compensation Commission's Permanent Rules, OAC 810. The Commissioners may recess for lunch.

The procedure for the hearings before the Commission en banc is as follows:

- Each side will be allowed ten (10) minutes for oral arguments.
- The appellant will present first. Appellant may divide his or her ten minutes for argument, allowing a portion of that time for rebuttal.
- Both parties are subject to questioning by Commissioners.

## 1. <u>Cheryl Hunt v. Brookside Cleaners LLC and Trumbull Ins. Co., File #CM3-2023-01287H</u>

Claimant filed an appeal from the order issued by Administrative Law Judge Lawyer. Arthur H. Adams is the attorney of record for the Claimant and Jennifer A. Sloan is the attorney of record for the Respondent.

#### **Possible Action:**

Possible action may include, but is not limited to: taking no action; continuing the matter; affirming the order and decision of the Administrative Law Judge and issuing an order to that effect; or taking preliminary action in the matter to reverse, modify, or remand. If the Commissioners do not fully affirm the order of the Administrative Law Judge, the Commission may instruct Appellate Counsel or staff to draft a proposed order to be considered in further deliberations and at a future Commission meeting.

#### 2. Brandy Hill v. Refresco US Inc. and Sentinel Ins. Co., File #CM3-2022-06021A

Claimant filed an appeal from the order issued by Administrative Law Judge Inhofe. Arthur H. Adams is the attorney of record for the Claimant and Leah P. Keele is the attorney of record for the Respondent.

#### **Possible Action:**

Possible action may include, but is not limited to: taking no action; continuing the matter; affirming the order and decision of the Administrative Law Judge and issuing an order to that effect; or taking preliminary action in the matter to reverse, modify, or remand. If the Commissioners do not fully affirm the order of the Administrative Law Judge, the Commission may instruct Appellate Counsel or staff to draft a proposed order to be considered in further deliberations and at a future Commission meeting.

#### 3. Kevin Buckmaster v. Walmart Associates Inc., File #CM3-2023-00465W

Respondent filed an appeal from the order issued by Administrative Law Judge Lawyer. Eric W. Quandt is the attorney of record for the Claimant and Steven E. Hanna is the attorney of record for the Respondent.

#### **Possible Action:**

Possible action may include, but is not limited to: taking no action; continuing the matter; affirming the order and decision of the Administrative Law Judge and issuing an order to that effect; or taking preliminary action in the matter to reverse, modify, or remand. If the Commissioners do not fully affirm the order of the Administrative Law Judge, the Commission may instruct Appellate Counsel or staff to draft a proposed order to be considered in further deliberations and at a future Commission meeting.

#### 4. Chris Gallegos v. City of Tulsa, File #CM3-2022-06872J

Respondent filed an appeal from the order issued by Administrative Law Judge Blodgett. Michael R. Green is the attorney of record for the Claimant and Travis R. Colt is the attorney of record for the Respondent.

#### **Possible Action:**

Possible action may include, but is not limited to: taking no action; continuing the matter; affirming the order and decision of the Administrative Law Judge and issuing an order to that effect; or taking preliminary action in the matter to reverse, modify, or remand. If the Commissioners do not fully affirm the order of the Administrative Law Judge, the Commission may instruct Appellate Counsel or staff to draft a proposed order to be considered in further deliberations and at a future Commission meeting.

### 5. <u>Robert Ramsey v. Express Employment Professionals DBA and AIU Insurance Co.</u> (NATIONAL UNION FIRE OF PITTS PA), #CM3-2022-01227Y

Claimant filed an appeal from the order issued by Administrative Law Judge Inhofe. Michael R. Green is the attorney of record for the Claimant and Travis A. Fulkerson is the attorney of record for the Respondent.

#### **Possible Action:**

Possible action may include, but is not limited to: taking no action; continuing the matter; affirming the order and decision of the Administrative Law Judge and issuing an order to that effect; or taking preliminary action in the matter to reverse, modify, or remand. If the Commissioners do not fully affirm the order of the Administrative Law Judge, the Commission may instruct Appellate Counsel or staff to draft a proposed order to be considered in further deliberations and at a future Commission meeting.

# 6. <u>Shana Stone v. Southwest Airlines Co. and Indemnity Insurance Co. of North America, File #CM3-2019-04356A</u>

Respondent filed an appeal from the order issued by Administrative Law Judge Inhofe. Mitchell E. Shamas is the attorney of record for the Claimant and H. Grady Parker Jr. is the attorney of record for the Respondent.

#### **Possible Action:**

Possible action may include, but is not limited to: taking no action; continuing the matter; affirming the order and decision of the Administrative Law Judge and issuing an order to that effect; or taking preliminary action in the matter to reverse, modify, or remand. If the Commissioners do not fully affirm the order of the Administrative Law Judge, the Commission may instruct Appellate Counsel or staff to draft a proposed order to be considered in further deliberations and at a future Commission meeting.

# 7. <u>Dylan Bradshaw v. Car Mart of Owasso DBA and Federated Mutual Ins. Co., File #CM3-2022-05953N</u>

Respondent filed an appeal from the order issued by Administrative Law Judge McMillin. Kathryn Black is the attorney of record for the Claimant and Andrew Price is the attorney of record for the Respondent.

#### **Possible Action:**

Possible action may include, but is not limited to: taking no action; continuing the matter; affirming the order and decision of the Administrative Law Judge and issuing an order to

that effect; or taking preliminary action in the matter to reverse, modify, or remand. If the Commissioners do not fully affirm the order of the Administrative Law Judge, the Commission may instruct Appellate Counsel or staff to draft a proposed order to be considered in further deliberations and at a future Commission meeting.

# 8. Glenn Kellum v. Crete Carrier Corp. and Ace American Insurance Company, File #CM3-2022-06071R

Respondent filed an appeal from the order issued by Administrative Law Judge Blodgett. E.W. Keller is the attorney of record for the Claimant and Donald A. Bullard is the attorney of record for the Respondent.

#### **Possible Action:**

Possible action may include, but is not limited to: taking no action; continuing the matter; affirming the order and decision of the Administrative Law Judge and issuing an order to that effect; or taking preliminary action in the matter to reverse, modify, or remand. If the Commissioners do not fully affirm the order of the Administrative Law Judge, the Commission may instruct Appellate Counsel or staff to draft a proposed order to be considered in further deliberations and at a future Commission meeting.

#### C. Commission Consideration of Adoption of Final Order in the Following Cases:

#### 1. Allan Hare v. MITF, File #CM3F-2019-04761J

Claimant filed an appeal from the order issued by Administrative Law Judge Curtin. Ray Lahann is the attorney of record for the Claimant and Stefan Wenzel is the attorney of record for the Respondent.

This case came on for Oral Argument on November 18, 2022. After reviewing the record, hearing oral argument of counsel, and deliberating, the Commission took this case under advisement.

#### **Possible Action:**

Possible action may include, but is not limited to: taking no action; continuing the matter; affirming the order and decision of the Administrative Law Judge and issuing an order to that effect; or taking preliminary action in the matter to reverse, modify, or remand. If the Commissioners do not fully affirm the order of the Administrative Law Judge, the Commission may instruct Appellate Counsel or staff to draft a proposed order to be considered in further deliberations and at a future Commission meeting.

#### 2. James Crittenden Jr. v. MITF, File #CM3F-2019-07602A

Claimant filed an appeal from the order issued by Administrative Law Judge Blodgett. McCaffrey & Associates are the attorneys of record for the Claimant and Michael A. Fagan is the attorney of record for the Respondent.

This case came on for Oral Argument on November 18, 2022. After reviewing the record, hearing oral argument of counsel, and deliberating, the Commission took this case under advisement.

#### **Possible Action:**

Possible action may include, but is not limited to: taking no action; continuing the matter; affirming the order and decision of the Administrative Law Judge and issuing an order to that effect; or taking preliminary action in the matter to reverse, modify, or remand. If the Commissioners do not fully affirm the order of the Administrative Law Judge, the Commission may instruct Appellate Counsel or staff to draft a proposed order to be considered in further deliberations and at a future Commission meeting.

#### 3. Jimmie Wilson v. MITF, File #CM3F-2017-01505K

Respondent filed an appeal from the order issued by Administrative Law Judge McMillin. Micah Felton appeared for the Claimant and Stefan Wenzel appeared for the Respondent.

This case came on for Oral Argument on January 27, 2023. After reviewing the record, hearing oral argument of counsel, and deliberating, the Commission Tilly moved to take preliminary action to affirm the administrative law judge's order and find that it's neither contrary to law nor against the clear weight of the evidence.

#### **Possible Action:**

Possible action may include, but is not limited to: taking no action; continuing the matter; affirming the order and decision of the Administrative Law Judge and issuing an order to that effect; or taking preliminary action in the matter to reverse, modify, or remand. If the Commissioners do not fully affirm the order of the Administrative Law Judge, the Commission may instruct Appellate Counsel or staff to draft a proposed order to be considered in further deliberations and at a future Commission meeting.

#### 4. James Randy Westlake v. MITF, File #CM3F-2022-01067X

Respondent filed an appeal from the order issued by Administrative Law Judge Lawyer. Ray Lahann is the attorney of record for the Claimant and Travis R. Colt is the attorney of record for the Respondent.

This case came on for Oral Argument on March 17, 2023. After reviewing the record, hearing oral argument of counsel, and deliberating, the Commission took this case under advisement.

#### **Possible Action:**

Possible action may include, but is not limited to: taking no action; continuing the matter; affirming the order and decision of the Administrative Law Judge and issuing an order to that effect; or taking preliminary action in the matter to reverse, modify, or remand. If the Commissioners do not fully affirm the order of the Administrative Law Judge, the Commission may instruct Appellate Counsel or staff to draft a proposed order to be considered in further deliberations and at a future Commission meeting.

#### 5. <u>Jerry Green v. MITF, File #CM3F-2015-07692A</u>

Claimant filed an appeal from the order issued by Administrative Law Judge Inhofe. Susan Jones appeared for the Claimant and Jordan S. Ensley appeared for the Respondent.

This case came on for Oral Argument on April 21, 2023. After reviewing the record, hearing oral arguments, and deliberating, Commissioner Biggs moved to take preliminary action to affirm the Administrative Law Judge's order and issue a supplemental order at a future date.

#### **Possible Action:**

Possible action may include, but is not limited to: taking no action; continuing the matter; affirming the order and decision of the Administrative Law Judge and issuing an order to that effect; or taking preliminary action in the matter to reverse, modify, or remand. If the Commissioners do not fully affirm the order of the Administrative Law Judge, the Commission may instruct Appellate Counsel or staff to draft a proposed order to be considered in further deliberations and at a future Commission meeting.

# 6. <u>Virgil Breeze v. Premium Transportation Group Inc. and XL Insurance America Inc., File #CM3-2021-06787E</u>

Both parties filed an appeal from the order issued by Administrative Law Judge Inhofe. Daniel J. Talbot appeared for the Claimant and R. Jay McAtee appeared for the Respondent.

This case came on for Oral Argument on April 21, 2023. After reviewing the record, hearing oral argument of counsel, and deliberating, the Commission took this case under advisement.

#### **Possible Action:**

Possible action may include, but is not limited to: taking no action; continuing the matter; affirming the order and decision of the Administrative Law Judge and issuing an order to that effect; or taking preliminary action in the matter to reverse, modify, or remand. If the Commissioners do not fully affirm the order of the Administrative Law Judge, the Commission may instruct Appellate Counsel or staff to draft a proposed order to be considered in further deliberations and at a future Commission meeting.

#### 7. Patricia Troxell v. MITF, File #CM3F-2017-00855A

Claimant filed an appeal from the order issued by Administrative Law Judge Inhofe. April Spurgeon appeared for the Claimant and Michael A. Fagan appeared for the Respondent.

This case came on for Oral Argument on April 21, 2023. After reviewing the record, hearing oral argument of counsel, and deliberating, the Chairman Russell moved to take preliminary action to draft an order directing the Administrative Law Judge to appoint an independent nurse manage to accompany the claimant to the physician's examination.

#### **Possible Action:**

Possible action may include, but is not limited to: taking no action; continuing the matter; affirming the order and decision of the Administrative Law Judge and issuing an order to that effect; or taking preliminary action in the matter to reverse, modify, or remand. If the Commissioners do not fully affirm the order of the Administrative Law Judge, the Commission may instruct Appellate Counsel or staff to draft a proposed order to be considered in further deliberations and at a future Commission meeting.

#### 8. Fernando Colunga v. MITF, File #CM3F-2015-01300K

Respondent filed an appeal from the order issued by Administrative Law Judge Inhofe. Michael R. Green appeared for the Claimant and Jordan S. Ensley appeared for the Respondent.

This case came on for Oral Argument on May 19, 2023. After reviewing the record, hearing oral arguments, and deliberating, Commissioner Biggs moved to take this case under advisement.

#### **Possible Action:**

Possible action may include, but is not limited to: taking no action; continuing the matter; affirming the order and decision of the Administrative Law Judge and issuing an order to that effect; or taking preliminary action in the matter to reverse, modify, or remand. If the Commissioners do not fully affirm the order of the Administrative Law Judge, the Commission may instruct Appellate Counsel or staff to draft a proposed order to be considered in further deliberations and at a future Commission meeting.

# 9. <u>Leticia Arevalo v. Worldwide Printing & Distribution and Great American Alliance Ins. Co., File #CM3-2022-006317G</u>

Claimant filed an appeal from the order issued by Administrative Law Judge McMillin. Arthur H. Adams is the attorney of record for the Claimant and James B. Cassody is the attorney of record for the Respondent.

This case came on for Oral Argument on June 16, 2023. After reviewing the record, hearing oral arguments, and deliberating, Commissioner Biggs moved to take preliminary action to modify the order and award TTD from October 7, 2022 to October 13, 2022 in the agreed upon stipulated rate and remand in part.

#### **Possible Action:**

Possible action may include, but is not limited to: taking no action; continuing the matter; affirming the order and decision of the Administrative Law Judge and issuing an order to that effect; or taking preliminary action in the matter to reverse, modify, or remand. If the Commissioners do not fully affirm the order of the Administrative Law Judge, the Commission may instruct Appellate Counsel or staff to draft a proposed order to be considered in further deliberations and at a future Commission meeting.

# 10. <u>Debra Ferguson v. Selco LLC and Employers Preferred Insurance Co. (FKA AMCOMP PREFERRED), File #CM3-2020-04017X</u>

Respondent filed an appeal from the order issued by Administrative Law Judge Lawyer. Margaret E. Otterson is the attorney of record for the Claimant and Cathy C. Barnum is the attorney of record for the Respondent.

This case came on for Oral Argument on June 16, 2023. After reviewing the record, hearing oral arguments, and deliberating, Chairman Russell moved to affirm the portion

of the order awarding evaluation and the treatment for weight loss and reverse and remand the portion of the order for the shower for appointment of a nurse case manager to evaluate and make recommendations to the Administrative Law Judge on that matter.

#### **Possible Action:**

Possible action may include, but is not limited to: taking no action; continuing the matter; affirming the order and decision of the Administrative Law Judge and issuing an order to that effect; or taking preliminary action in the matter to reverse, modify, or remand. If the Commissioners do not fully affirm the order of the Administrative Law Judge, the Commission may instruct Appellate Counsel or staff to draft a proposed order to be considered in further deliberations and at a future Commission meeting.

#### 11. Travis Oakes v. City of Stillwater, File #CM3-2022-07536Y

Respondent filed an appeal from the order issued by Administrative Law Judge Egan. Daniel J. Talbot appeared for the Claimant and John D. Valentine appeared for the Respondent.

This case came on for Oral Argument on July 21, 2023. After reviewing the record, hearing oral arguments, and deliberating, Commissioner Biggs moved to take preliminary action to reverse the denial of Respondent's motion to terminate TTD.

#### **Possible Action:**

Possible action may include, but is not limited to: taking no action; continuing the matter; affirming the order and decision of the Administrative Law Judge and issuing an order to that effect; or taking preliminary action in the matter to reverse, modify, or remand. If the Commissioners do not fully affirm the order of the Administrative Law Judge, the Commission may instruct Appellate Counsel or staff to draft a proposed order to be considered in further deliberations and at a future Commission meeting.

# 12. <u>James Brock v. Starlight Express LLC and Compsource Mutual Ins. Co. (FKA COMPSOURCE OKLAHOMA)</u>, File #CM3-2021-04119R

Claimant filed an appeal from the order issued by Administrative Law Judge Egan. Susan H. Jones appeared for the Claimant and Travis R. Colt appeared for the Respondent.

This case came on for Oral Argument on September 22, 2023. After reviewing the record, hearing oral arguments, and deliberating, Chairman Russell moved to preliminary action to reverse the order sustaining Respondent's request for dismissal of certain body parts and authorize the Commission's appellate counsel or other staff member to draft a proposed order findings and facts and conclusion of law to be considered for continued action at a future meeting.

#### **Possible Action:**

Possible action may include, but is not limited to: taking no action; continuing the matter; affirming the order and decision of the Administrative Law Judge and issuing an order to that effect; or taking preliminary action in the matter to reverse, modify, or remand. If the Commissioners do not fully affirm the order of the Administrative Law Judge, the

Commission may instruct Appellate Counsel or staff to draft a proposed order to be considered in further deliberations and at a future Commission meeting.

## 13. <u>Jimmy Mills v. Gary A. Crain Inc. and Imperium Insurance Co., File #CM3-2020-00795Q</u>

Claimant filed an appeal from the order issued by Administrative Law Judge Curtin. Daniel J. Talbot appeared for the Claimant and R. Jay McAtee appeared for the Respondent.

This case came on for Oral Argument on September 22, 2023. After reviewing the record, hearing oral arguments, and deliberating, Chairman Russell moved to take this case under advisement.

#### **Possible Action:**

Possible action may include, but is not limited to: taking no action; continuing the matter; affirming the order and decision of the Administrative Law Judge and issuing an order to that effect; or taking preliminary action in the matter to reverse, modify, or remand. If the Commissioners do not fully affirm the order of the Administrative Law Judge, the Commission may instruct Appellate Counsel or staff to draft a proposed order to be considered in further deliberations and at a future Commission meeting.

# 14. Richard Carmichael v. G.T. Bynum Co. LLC and Old Glory Insurance Co., File #CM3-2022-00963T

Claimant filed an appeal from the order issued by Administrative Law Judge Lawyer. Bret Untershuetz appeared for the Claimant and David Custar appeared for the Respondent.

This case came on for Oral Argument on September 22, 2023. After reviewing the record, hearing oral arguments, and deliberating, Commissioner Biggs moved to take preliminary action to reverse the denial of TTD, remand the case back to the ALJ, and issue an order at a later date.

#### **Possible Action:**

Possible action may include, but is not limited to: taking no action; continuing the matter; affirming the order and decision of the Administrative Law Judge and issuing an order to that effect; or taking preliminary action in the matter to reverse, modify, or remand. If the Commissioners do not fully affirm the order of the Administrative Law Judge, the Commission may instruct Appellate Counsel or staff to draft a proposed order to be considered in further deliberations and at a future Commission meeting.

# 15. <u>Kevin Power v. Flow Testing Inc. and Compsource Mutual Ins. Co. (FKA COMPSOURCE OKLAHOMA), File #CM3-2020-02016R</u>

Claimant filed an appeal from the order issued by Administrative Law Judge Egan. Ray Lahann is the attorney of record for the Claimant and Laurie D. Judy is the attorney of record for the Respondent.

This case came on for Oral Argument on September 22, 2023. Commissioner Biggs moved to take preliminary action to vacate the denial and remand back to the ALJ for the submission of further evidence as requested by the CIME in his report.

#### **Possible Action:**

Possible action may include, but is not limited to: taking no action; continuing the matter; affirming the order and decision of the Administrative Law Judge and issuing an order to that effect; or taking preliminary action in the matter to reverse, modify, or remand. If the Commissioners do not fully affirm the order of the Administrative Law Judge, the Commission may instruct Appellate Counsel or staff to draft a proposed order to be considered in further deliberations and at a future Commission meeting.

**ADJOURNMENT.....**Presiding Appellate Officer, Commissioner Tilly