# REGULAR MEETING OF THE OKLAHOMA WORKERS' COMPENSATION COMMISSION

#### **APPEALS**

Friday, February 23, 2024 9:00 a.m. Commission En Banc Courtroom 1915 N. Stiles Ave. Oklahoma City, Oklahoma www.wcc.ok.gov

#### **AGENDA**

CALL TO ORD	ERCommission'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 January 26, 2024 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>Edith Mosley v. Amazon Fulfillment Services Inc. and American Zurich Insurance</u> Co., File #CM3-2021-01641Q

Respondent filed an appeal from the order issued by Administrative Law Judge Curtin. Daniel M. Davis 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.

## 2. <u>Juliette Santos v. The Kaiser Group Inc. DBA Dynamic, Compsource Mutual Insurance Company, Ross Innovative Employment Solutions, and QBE Insurance Corporation, File #CM3A-2021-05456Q</u>

Respondent filed an appeal from the order issued by Administrative Law Judge Inhofe. Anthony F. Gorospe is the attorney of record for the Claimant. Bert M. Kendrick, Stan Koop, and Nicole S. Bryant are the attorneys of record for the Respondents.

#### **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. <u>Lewis Buchtel v. Bennett International Group LLC and AIU Insurance Co.</u> (NATIONAL UNION FIRE OF PITTS PA), File #CM3-2023-00209K

Respondent filed an appeal from the order issued by Administrative Law Judge Egan. Robert A. Flynn is the attorney of record for the Claimant and Connie M. Wolfe 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. Quintin Del Cavett v. Priority Staffcorp LLC and Compsource Mutual Insurance Company, File #CM3-2023-02428G

Claimant filed an appeal from the order issued by Administrative Law Judge Egan. Daniel J. Talbot is the attorney of record for the Claimant and John A. McCaleb 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

The Commission is considering the adoption of the following order in the above referenced case:

This matter comes before the Commission on its *sua sponte* inquiry to determine the need for a stay of appellate proceedings. The instant case involves the same jurisdictional issue raised by the Multiple Injury Trust Fund in *Stricklen v. Multiple Injury Trust Fund*, No. 120,753, which is pending certiorari review by the Oklahoma Supreme Court. In the interest of judicial economy, the Commission finds a stay of appellate proceedings is necessary. It is therefore **ORDERED** that Petitioner's appeal is hereby **STAYED** pending final resolution in *Stricklen* or until further order of the Commission.

#### **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. <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.

### 3. <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.

### 4. <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.

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

Claimant filed an appeal from the order issued by Administrative Law Judge Egan. J. Kord Hammert appeared the Claimant and David J. Frette 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 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.

#### 6. Rachel Fritz v. City of Tulsa (OWN RISK #10435), File #CM3-2019-06216R

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

This case came on for Oral Argument on December 1, 2023. After reviewing the record, hearing oral arguments, and deliberating, Commissioner Tilly moved to take preliminary action to reverse the Administrative Law Judge's order on the TTD issue.

#### **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>Charles Caul v. Shelton Redi Mix LLC and Ins. Co. of the West, File #CM3-2023-00661K</u>

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

This case came on for Oral Argument on January 26, 2024. 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.

<u>ADJOURNMENT</u>.....Presiding Appellate Officer, Commissioner Tilly