

**WORKERS' COMPENSATION APPEALS BOARD  
STATE OF CALIFORNIA**

**STEVEN TORRES, *Applicant***

**vs.**

**BURKE INDUSTRIES INC.;  
TRAVELERS INSURANCE COMPANY, *Defendants***

**Adjudication Number: ADJ10597109 MF; ADJ10597120; ADJ10597122  
San Jose District Office**

**OPINION AND ORDER  
DENYING PETITION  
FOR DISQUALIFICATION**

Applicant seeks disqualification of the workers' compensation administrative law judge (WCJ) assigned to his case.

We have considered the allegations of the Petition for Disqualification including Applicant's Declaration, as well as the Answer and the Report of the workers' compensation administrative law judge (WCJ). Based on our review of the record and for the reasons stated in the WCJ's report, we will deny the Petition for Disqualification.

Litigation can be stressful. Nevertheless, we urge the parties and the WCJ to endeavor to be courteous and respectful to one another.

For the foregoing reasons,

**IT IS ORDERED** that the Petition for Disqualification is **DENIED**.

**WORKERS' COMPENSATION APPEALS BOARD**

**/s/ MARGUERITE SWEENEY, COMMISSIONER**

**I CONCUR,**

**/s/ KATHERINE WILLIAMS DODD, COMMISSIONER**

**ANNE SCHMITZ, DEPUTY COMMISSIONER**  
**PARTICIPATING NOT SIGNING**



**DATED AND FILED AT SAN FRANCISCO, CALIFORNIA**

**OCTOBER 31, 2022**

**SERVICE MADE ON THE ABOVE DATE ON THE PERSONS LISTED BELOW AT THEIR ADDRESSES SHOWN ON THE CURRENT OFFICIAL ADDRESS RECORD.**

**STEVEN TORRES  
LAW OFFICES OF FERNANDO E. VARGAS  
WITKOP LAW**

**MWH/mc**

I certify that I affixed the official seal of the Workers' Compensation Appeals Board to this original decision on this date.

*CS*