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DWCNewsline

Division of Workers' Compensation
Carrie Nevans, Administrative Director

1515 Clay Street, 17th floor, Oakland, CA 94612 (510) 286-7100

Internet Web Page: <http://www.dir.ca.gov>

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Division of Workers' Compensation issues 15-day notice of revisions to proposed ethics regulations for workers' compensation judges

The Division of Workers' Compensation (DWC) has modified its proposed regulations concerning ethical standards of workers' compensation judges and has posted a 15-day notice of revisions to its Web site.

Members of the public may comment on the revisions until 5 p.m. on April 21, 2008.

The proposed revisions to the draft regulations include modifications to the following sections:

- Section 9720.2 "Definitions," modifies the definition of "financial interest" by including the subject of an ownership interest in mutual funds.
- Section 9721.11 "Requirement for Disclosure," has been modified to include instructions on when a judge must first provide disclosure, and also limits the time period for which judges must disclose former representation of parties.
- Section 9721.14 "Manner of Disclosure," is a new section that has been added to clarify how disclosure is to be made.
- Section 9721.21 "Restriction on Investments," has been modified to clarify a judge's ownership interest in a corporation which owns a workers' compensation insurance carrier.
- Section 9721.32 "Duty to Report Ethics Violations," revises how a judge should take corrective action for improper conduct.
- Sections 9722, 9722.1 and 9722.2, have been modified to specify how confidential information from the workers' compensation ethics advisory committee shall be disclosed and handled.

Further information and the modified proposals can be found at
http://www.dir.ca.gov/dwc/DWCPropRegs/Ethics_Regulations/Ethics_Regulations.htm.

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