

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

JOHN COCHRAN JR., *Applicant*

vs.

**THE WALT DISNEY COMPANY;
KEYSTONE PAYING AGENT, INC.,
AGENT FOR:
AMERICAN BROADCASTING COMPANIES;
CHUBB INSURANCE, *Defendants***

**Adjudication Number: ADJ18454068
Marina Del Rey District Office**

**OPINION AND ORDER
GRANTING PETITION
FOR REMOVAL
AND DECISION
AFTER REMOVAL**

Applicant has filed a petition for removal from the order taking the matter off calendar issued on August 13, 2025, by the workers' compensation administrative law judge (WCJ).

Applicant contends that the record does not require further development.

We have received an Answer from defendant. The WCJ filed a Report and Recommendation on Petition for Removal (Report) recommending that we deny removal.

We have considered the allegations of the Petition for Removal and the contents of the WCJ's Report. Based on our review of the record we will grant removal and as our Decision After Removal, we will rescind the August 13, 2025, order taking the matter off calendar and return this matter to the trial level to create a record.

Removal is an extraordinary remedy rarely exercised by the Appeals Board. (*Cortez v. Workers' Comp. Appeals Bd.* (2006) 136 Cal.App.4th 596, 599, fn. 5 [71 Cal.Comp.Cases 155]; *Kleemann v. Workers' Comp. Appeals Bd.* (2005) 127 Cal.App.4th 274, 280, fn. 2 [70 Cal.Comp.Cases 133].) The Appeals Board will grant removal only if the petitioner shows that

substantial prejudice or irreparable harm will result if removal is not granted. (Cal. Code Regs., tit. 8, 10955(a); see also *Cortez, supra*; *Kleemann, supra*.) Also, the petitioner must demonstrate that reconsideration will not be an adequate remedy if a final decision adverse to the petitioner ultimately issues. (Cal. Code Regs., tit. 8, § 10955(a).) Here, the WCJ ordered the trial off calendar for further development of the record. The trial judge issued this order without creating a record or explaining the need for further development of the record and thus, the order violates the parties' right to due process, which constitutes irreparable harm. Thus, removal is proper in this case.

Decisions of the Appeals Board "must be based on admitted evidence in the record." (*Hamilton v. Lockheed Corporation (Hamilton)* (2001) 66 Cal.Comp.Cases 473, 476 (Appeals Board en banc).) Furthermore, decisions of the Appeals Board must be supported by substantial evidence. (Lab. Code, §§ 5903, 5952(d); *Lamb v. Workmen's Comp. Appeals Bd.* (1974) 11 Cal.3d 274 [39 Cal.Comp.Cases 310]; *Garza v. Workmen's Comp. Appeals Bd.* (1970) 3 Cal.3d 312 [35 Cal.Comp.Cases 500]; *LeVesque v. Workmen's Comp. Appeals Bd.* (1970) 1 Cal.3d 627 [35 Cal.Comp.Cases 16].) An adequate and complete record is necessary to understand the basis for the WCJ's decision. (Lab. Code, § 5313; see also Cal. Code Regs., tit. 8, § 10761.)

Here, the matter was set for trial on multiple issues including whether applicant's injury was industrial. The trial was taken off calendar based upon the WCJ's review of the proposed record. However, no actual record supports this order. No opinion on decision issued in conjunction with the order. The order is not supported and thus we will rescind the order taking the matter off calendar and return this matter to the trial level so that a record can be created.

We make no judgment at this time whether development of the record is warranted since without a formal record available to review, we have no ability to make this determination.¹

Accordingly, we grant removal and as our Decision After Removal, we rescind the August 13, 2025, order taking the matter off calendar and return this matter to the trial level to create a record.

¹ However, and to assist the parties in moving this case forward, if the representations made by the WCJ in the Report are ultimately supported by a record created at a hearing, it would appear that an order to develop the record may be prudent.

For the foregoing reasons,

IT IS ORDERED that applicant's Petition for Removal from the order taking the matter off calendar issued on August 13, 2025, by the WCJ is **GRANTED**.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED as the Decision After Removal of the Workers' Compensation Appeals Board that the order taking the matter off calendar issued on August 13, 2025, by the WCJ is **RESCINDD**.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that this matter is **RETURNED** to the trial level for further proceedings.

WORKERS' COMPENSATION APPEALS BOARD

/s/ KATHERINE A. ZALEWSKI, CHAIR

/s/ JOSEPH V. CAPURRO, COMMISSIONER

/s/ PAUL F. KELLY, COMMISSIONER



DATED AND FILED AT SAN FRANCISCO, CALIFORNIA

NOVEMBER 6, 2025

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

**JOHN COCHRAN, JR.
NYMAN TURKISH, PC
MURPHY BEANE McKERNAN APC**

EDL/mc

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