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State of California

DWCNewsline

Division of Workers' Compensation
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Los Angeles court schedules conference to discuss consolidation of liens

Compound pharmacy liens are the subject of the court's motion to consolidate

The Los Angeles district office of the Division of Workers' Compensation has made a motion to consolidate lien proceedings regarding compound pharmacy liens. The hearing is scheduled for 10 a.m. on Wednesday, Oct. 6 in the court's first floor auditorium at 320 W. 4th St. in Los Angeles.

All compound pharmacy lien claimants with pending liens should attend, along with their representatives and defendants. However, injured workers and lien claimants without compound pharmacy liens should not attend.

Parties do not need to bring their files.

The court took this action because there are common issues of law and fact in the approximately 400 compound pharmacy liens filed each month at the Los Angeles district office. Processing liens is time consuming, and the Los Angeles court can only accommodate 145 lien hearings per month.

"In the event that the cases merit consolidation there can be a system-wide savings by reducing repetitive litigation. That is what consolidation is all about – finding common issues of law and fact that can allow a court to step in and get parties to cut to the heart of things," said Court Administrator Keven Star. "On the other hand, the cases may not be ripe for consolidation. We will see what takes place at the hearing and what the parties present to the court on both sides of the discussion."

Los Angeles Presiding Judge Jorja Frank will preside over the Oct. 6 proceedings, along with Mark Kahn, the associate chief judge for the southern region. Kahn has jurisdiction over other courts in case the issues go beyond just those cases scheduled in Los Angeles. The conference will take place:

Wednesday, Oct. 6, 2010

10 a.m.

Div. of Workers' Compensation

Los Angeles district office

320 W. 4th St., 1st floor auditorium

Los Angeles, CA 90013