

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

STEVE HODDINOTT, et al., *Applicants*

vs.

**BRAVO SECURITY SERVICES, INC.; NATIONAL LIABILITY FIRE INS. CO.,
administered by BIBERK BUSINESS INSURANCE, et al., *Defendants***

**Adjudication Numbers: ADJ16491268; ADJ15884384; ADJ16161110; ADJ16161057;
ADJ16161093; ADJ15760386; ADJ18891808; ADJ19153721; ADJ16116250
Redding District Office**

**OPINION AND DECISION
AFTER REMOVAL**

(En Banc)

Upon a unanimous vote of its members, the Appeals Board issues this decision as an en banc decision.¹ (Lab. Code, § 115.)

We previously granted removal in these matters on our own motion to provide an opportunity to study and address the issues. On October 21, 2024, and to assist the parties further, the Appeals Board issued an en banc notice of status conference, which occurred on November 4, 2024.

At the status conference, the parties entered into stipulations resolving their underlying attorney fee dispute in these matters and requesting dismissal with prejudice of all petitions for removal and/or disqualification in these matters as relates to their attorney fee dispute. We have reviewed the stipulations and as our Decision After Removal, we will issue orders approving the stipulation to withdraw the petitions, and order dismissal of all petitions for removal and/or disqualification pending in these matters. The parties' stipulation in the underlying attorney fee

¹ En banc decisions of the Appeals Board are binding precedent on all Appeals Board panels and workers' compensation administrative law judges. (Cal. Code Regs., tit. 8, § 10325; *City of Long Beach v. Workers' Comp. Appeals Bd. (Garcia)* (2005) 126 Cal.App.4th 298, 316, fn. 5 [70 Cal.Comp.Cases 109]; *Gee v. Workers' Comp. Appeals Bd.* (2002) 96 Cal.App.4th 1418, 1424, fn. 6 [67 Cal.Comp.Cases 236].) This en banc decision is also adopted as a precedent decision pursuant to Government Code section 11425.60(b).

dispute may be submitted in each of these cases to the workers' compensation judge tasked with issuing the award of fees. Finally, having resolved all issues pending in these consolidated matters, we will issue an order rescinding the order of consolidation and return these matters to the trial level for further proceedings.

For the foregoing reasons,

IT IS ORDERED as the Decision After Removal of the Workers' Compensation Appeals Board, that the November 4, 2024 Stipulation of the parties to withdraw with prejudice all current petitions related to their attorney fee dispute, including petitions for disqualification, removal, penalties, sanctions, and attorney fees is **APPROVED**.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that pursuant to the November 4, 2024 stipulation, the petitions for disqualification and/or removal in each of these consolidated proceedings are **DISMISSED WITH PREJUDICE** as follows:

The Petition for Disqualification filed by Patrick Gorman in *Steve Hoddinott v. Bravo Security Services, Inc.*, (ADJ16491268);

The Petition for Disqualification filed by Patrick Gorman in *Robert Scates v. United Rentals, Inc.*, (ADJ15884384);

The Petitions for Removal and Disqualification filed by Patrick Gorman in *Pamela Bennett v. Dollar Tree Stores*, (ADJ16161110, ADJ16161057, ADJ16161093)²

The Petition for Disqualification filed by Patrick Gorman in *Cal Demercurio, Jr. v. All Seasons Roofing*, (ADJ15760386, ADJ18891808);

The Petitions for Removal and Disqualification filed by Patrick Gorman in *Dawn Snure v. City of Mt. Shasta*, (ADJ19153721, ADJ16116250).

² To be clear, this order does not dispose of the petition for reconsideration which was also filed in this case, upon which the Appeals Board will issue a separate decision.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that the order of consolidation in Case Numbers: ADJ16491268; ADJ15884384; ADJ16161110; ADJ16161057; ADJ16161093; ADJ15760386; ADJ18891808; ADJ19153721; and ADJ16116250 issued on September 4, 2024 by the Workers' Compensation Appeals Board is **RESCINDED** and that these matters are **RETURNED** to the trial level for further proceedings.

WORKERS' COMPENSATION APPEALS BOARD (EN BANC)

/s/ KATHERINE A. ZALEWSKI, CHAIR

/s/ JOSÉ H. RAZO, COMMISSIONER

/s/ KATHERINE WILLIAMS DODD, COMMISSIONER

/s/ CRAIG SNELLINGS, COMMISSIONER

/s/ JOSEPH V. CAPURRO, COMMISSIONER

/s/ PAUL KELLY, COMMISSIONER

DATED AND FILED AT SAN FRANCISCO, CALIFORNIA

November 14, 2024

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

EDL/abs



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

SERVICE LIST

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