

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

**DOUGLAS PIERCE, *Applicant***

**vs.**

**THE HOME DEPOT U.S.A., INC.; Permissibly Self-Insured,  
Administered by HELMSMAN MANAGEMENT SERVICES, LLC, *Defendants***

**Adjudication Number: ADJ2805730 (VNO 0403756)  
Van Nuys District Office**

**OPINION AND ORDER  
DENYING PETITION  
FOR REMOVAL**

We have considered the allegations of the Petition for Removal and the contents of the report of the workers' compensation administrative law judge (WCJ) with respect thereto.<sup>1</sup> Based on our review of the record, and based upon the WCJ's analysis of the merits of petitioner's arguments in the WCJ's report, we will deny removal.

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, former § 10843(a), now § 10955(a) (eff. Jan. 1, 2020); 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, former § 10843(a), now § 10955(a) (eff. Jan. 1, 2020).) Here, based upon the WCJ's analysis of the merits of petitioner's arguments, we are not persuaded that substantial prejudice or irreparable harm will result if removal is denied and/or that reconsideration will not be an adequate remedy if the matter ultimately proceeds to a final decision adverse to petitioner.

Petitioner may refile a Declaration of Readiness to Proceed (DOR) if necessary.

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<sup>1</sup> Commissioner Dodd, who was on the panel that issued a prior decision in this matter is unavailable to participate further in this decision. Another panel member was assigned in her place

For the foregoing reasons,

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

**WORKERS' COMPENSATION APPEALS BOARD**

**/s/ JOSÉ H. RAZO, COMMISSIONER**

**I CONCUR,**

**/s/ DEIDRA E. LOWE, COMMISSIONER**

**/s/ PATRICIA A. GARCIA, DEPUTY COMMISSIONER**



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

**DECEMBER 10, 2021**

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

**DOUGLAS PIERCE  
LEGAL SERVICES BUREAU  
RONDEAU LAW  
TESTAN LAW**

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