

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

LEE HINTON, *Applicant*

vs.

**SONY PICTURES ENTERTAINMENT; TOKIO MARINE INSURANCE COMPANY,
administered by TRISTAR RISK MANAGEMENT, *Defendants***

**Adjudication Number: ADJ11102439
Van Nuys District Office**

**OPINION AND DECISION
AFTER RECONSIDERATION**

Defendant petitioned for reconsideration of the Findings and Award issued by the workers' compensation administrative law judge (WCJ) in this matter on November 25, 2024. In that decision, the WCJ found that applicant sustained injury arising out of and in the course of employment (AOE/COE) to the cervical spine, lumbar spine and left shoulder while employed as a production coordinator on October 6, 2017. The WCJ further found that applicant sustained injury AOE/COE to the thoracic spine, head, bilateral lower extremities, right and left hips, dental, and injury in the form of "hypertension/cardiovascular aggravated by workplace injury, gastritis/GERD, vertigo, anxiety disorder and sleep disorder." In addition, the WCJ found that the injury herein caused 73% permanent disability and need for further medical treatment.

Defendant contends that the WCJ erred in finding industrial injury to the additional body parts and in finding 73% permanent disability, arguing that these findings are not supported by substantial evidence, that the medical legal reports relied upon were self-procured, and that the WCJ found injury to parts of the body that were not at issue.

Applicant did not file an Answer. The WCJ prepared a Report and Recommendation on Petition for Reconsideration (Report), recommending that the Petition be denied.

On March 10, 2025, we issued an interim non-final order granting the petition, and encouraged the parties to participate in the Appeals Board's voluntary mediation program.

Thereafter, the parties agreed to participate in the aforementioned mediation program to discuss the issues raised.

On January 13, 2026, the parties advised that a proposed settlement by Compromise and Release (C&R) had been reached, and requested return of the matter to the trial level for review of the proposed settlement.

In order to expedite review and approval of the parties' settlement agreement, we will rescind the November 25, 2024 Findings and Award, and return this matter to the WCJ to consider the C&R of the parties. The WCJ may conduct such further proceedings as is deemed appropriate.

Our decision should not be construed as a ruling on the merits of the petition for reconsideration. If the WCJ does not approve the settlement, the WCJ can issue an order reinstating her decision and any aggrieved party may timely seek reconsideration from the reinstated decision.

Finally, we commend the parties for successfully resolving this matter by joint agreement, without the need for further action by the Appeals Board.

For the foregoing reasons,

IT IS ORDERED as the Decision After Reconsideration of the Workers' Compensation Appeals Board that the WCJ's decision of November 25, 2024 is **RESCINDED** and this matter be **RETURNED** to the workers' compensation administrative law judge to consider the Compromise and Release and for such further proceedings as is deemed appropriate.

WORKERS' COMPENSATION APPEALS BOARD

/s/ JOSÉ H. RAZO, COMMISSIONER

I CONCUR,

/s/ KATHERINE WILLIAMS DODD, COMMISSIONER

/s/ JOSEPH V. CAPURRO, COMMISSIONER



DATED AND FILED AT SAN FRANCISCO, CALIFORNIA

JANUARY 16, 2026

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

**LEE HINTON
GLAUBER BERENSON VEGO
PEARLMAN, BROWN & WAX**

LAS/bp

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