



State of New Jersey

DEPARTMENT OF LABOR AND WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT
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CHRIS CHRISTIE
Governor


KIM GUADAGNO
Lt. Governor

GEORGE M. KRAUSE
Acting Commissioner

MEMORANDUM

January 28, 2010

To: All Judges and Attorneys

From: Peter J. Calderone, Director and Chief Judge 

Subject: Recent Events

1. Governor Chris Christie nominated Sussex County Freeholder Director Harold J. Wirths to be Commissioner of the Department of Labor and Workforce Development. Commissioner Designate Wirths' nomination is expected to be considered by the Senate Judiciary Committee early next month. We are advised that Commissioner Designate Wirths will be at the Department commencing on February 1, 2010.
2. The Transition Reports for the new Administration have been released to the public. The Department of Labor and Workforce Development Report had a favorable review of the workers' compensation program.
3. N.J.S.A. 34:15-120.3 was amended recently and the amended law appears in the statute section of the Division's website. The amendment, which eliminates the 45 day waiting period before an Uninsured Employer's Fund order can be docketed with the Superior Court, will expedite the payment of UEF benefits and counsel fees. The bill (Assembly, No. 3669 last session) was drafted by the Division and sponsored by Assemblywomen Annette Quijano.
4. P.L. 2009, c 327 (Assembly No. 4168) was also enacted during the last session of the legislature which retains the Workers' Compensation Security Fund as a separate legal entity but transfers the management of the fund from the Compensation Rating and Inspection Bureau to the New Jersey Property- Liability Insurance Guaranty Association known as PLIGA. This transfer will affect the payment of claims against insolvent workers' compensation insurers. Our current dealings with PLIGA have been positive and this change is expected to centralize workers' compensation with other programs involving insolvent insurers.
5. The eight new judges are currently in the judicial training program and it is expected that all new judges will be assigned and begin their own lists on or before February 22, 2010.

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