

REGULAR MEETING OF THE  
OKLAHOMA WORKERS' COMPENSATION  
COMMISSION

**APPEALS**

Friday, November 21, 2025  
9:00 a.m.  
Commission en Banc Courtroom  
1915 N. Stiles Ave.  
Oklahoma City, Oklahoma  
[www.wcc.ok.gov](http://www.wcc.ok.gov)

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**AGENDA**

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**CALL TO ORDER.....Commission's Chair, Chairman Russell**  
**ROLL CALL.....Presiding Appellate Officer, Commissioner Tilly**  
**BUSINESS.....Presiding Appellate Officer, Commissioner Tilly**

**\*STATEMENT OF COMPLIANCE BY CHAIRMAN\***

**THE FOLLOWING MATTERS ARE PRESENTED FOR CONSIDERATION AND ACTION, IF ANY, DEEMED APPROPRIATE BY THE COMMISSION**

**A. MINUTES:**

- The drafted Minutes of the Regular Appeals Meeting of October 3, 2025, will be considered for approval.

**B. Appeal Hearings before the Commission En Banc from Orders Issued by the Commission's Administrative Law Judges**

The hearings before the Commission en banc will be conducted pursuant to the authority and jurisdiction of the Administrative Workers' Compensation Act, Title 85A O.S. § 1 et seq., and the Workers' Compensation Commission's Permanent Rules, OAC 810. The Commissioners may recess for lunch.

The procedure for the hearings before the Commission en banc is as follows:

- Each side will be allowed ten (10) minutes for oral arguments.
- The appellant will present first. Appellant may divide his or her ten minutes for argument, allowing a portion of that time for rebuttal.

Both parties are subject to questioning by Commissioners.

1. **Joseph James v. Oklahoma Department of Mental Health & Substance Abuse and the State of Oklahoma, File #CM3-2019-03259J**

Claimant filed an appeal from the order issued by Administrative Law Judge Blodgett. D. Eliot Yaffe is the attorney of record for the Claimant and Heather A. Lehman-Fagan is the attorney of record for the Respondent.

**Possible Action:**

Possible action may include, but is not limited to: taking no action; continuing the matter; affirming the order and decision of the Administrative Law Judge and issuing an order to that effect; or taking preliminary action in the matter to reverse, modify, or remand. If the Commissioners do not fully affirm the order of the Administrative Law Judge, the Commission may instruct Appellate Counsel or staff to draft a proposed order to be considered in further deliberations and at a future Commission meeting.

2. **Haley Howell v. Nicoles Gymnastics Academy LLC and Employers Preferred Insurance Co., File #CM3-2020-01505J**

Respondent filed an appeal from the order issued by Administrative Law Judge McMillin. Randy L. Wagner is the attorney of record for the Claimant and Cathy C. Barnum is the attorney of record for the Respondent.

**Possible Action:**

Possible action may include, but is not limited to: taking no action; continuing the matter; affirming the order and decision of the Administrative Law Judge and issuing an order to that effect; or taking preliminary action in the matter to reverse, modify, or remand. If the Commissioners do not fully affirm the order of the Administrative Law Judge, the Commission may instruct Appellate Counsel or staff to draft a proposed order to be considered in further deliberations and at a future Commission meeting.

3. **Brandon Henry v. Town of Ramona and Compsource Mutual Insurance Company, File #CM3-2023-03681G**

Respondent filed an appeal from the order issued by Administrative Law Judge Lawyer. Kathryn Black is the attorney of record for the Claimant. Cathy C. Barnum and Richard W. Wassall are the attorneys of record for the Respondent.

**Possible Action:**

Possible action may include, but is not limited to: taking no action; continuing the matter; affirming the order and decision of the Administrative Law Judge and issuing an order to that effect; or taking preliminary action in the matter to reverse, modify, or remand. If the Commissioners do not fully affirm the order of the Administrative Law Judge, the Commission may instruct Appellate Counsel or staff to draft a proposed order to be considered in further deliberations and at a future Commission meeting.

4. **Daniel Wilske v. Bartlesville Redi-Mix Inc. and Zurich American Ins. Co., File #CM3-2024-05512G**

Respondent filed an appeal from the order issued by Administrative Law Judge Lawyer. Phillip C. Hawkins is the attorney of record for the Claimant and Cathy C. Barnum is the attorney of record for the Respondent.

**Possible Action:**

Possible action may include, but is not limited to: taking no action; continuing the matter; affirming the order and decision of the Administrative Law Judge and issuing an order to that effect; or taking preliminary action in the matter to reverse, modify, or remand. If the Commissioners do not fully affirm the order of the Administrative Law Judge, the Commission may instruct Appellate Counsel or staff to draft a proposed order to be considered in further deliberations and at a future Commission meeting.

5. **Joshua Vanzant v. St. Louis Well Servicing Co. LLC and Compsource Mutual Insurance Company, File #CM3-2023-06343Q**

Respondent filed an appeal from the order issued by Administrative Law Judge McMillin. Jay T. Chaney and Randy D. Edmonson are the attorneys of record for the Claimant. John A. McCaleb is the attorney of record for the Respondent.

**Possible Action:**

Possible action may include, but is not limited to: taking no action; continuing the matter; affirming the order and decision of the Administrative Law Judge and issuing an order to that effect; or taking preliminary action in the matter to reverse, modify, or remand. If the Commissioners do not fully affirm the order of the Administrative Law Judge, the Commission may instruct Appellate Counsel or staff to draft a proposed order to be considered in further deliberations and at a future Commission meeting.

6. **James Dawson v. Guardian Pharmacy Services Management and Sompo America Insurance Company, File #CM3-2024-00429G**

Claimant filed an appeal from the order issued by Administrative Law Judge Inhofe. Donald E. Smolen II and Michael Flynn are the attorneys of record for the Claimant. Donald A. Bullard is the attorney of record for the Respondent.

**Possible Action:**

Possible action may include, but is not limited to: taking no action; continuing the matter; affirming the order and decision of the Administrative Law Judge and issuing an order to that effect; or taking preliminary action in the matter to reverse, modify, or remand. If the Commissioners do not fully affirm the order of the Administrative Law Judge, the Commission may instruct Appellate Counsel or staff to draft a proposed order to be considered in further deliberations and at a future Commission meeting.

7. **William Dallis v. Tahlequah Stockyards Inc. and Compsource Mutual Insurance Company, File #CM3-2024-01505R**

Respondent filed an appeal from the order issued by Administrative Law Judge Lawyer. Brian R. Berry is the attorney of record for the Claimant and Blake I. Whitten is the attorney of record for the Respondent.

**Possible Action:**

Possible action may include, but is not limited to: taking no action; continuing the matter; affirming the order and decision of the Administrative Law Judge and issuing an order to that effect; or taking preliminary action in the matter to reverse, modify, or remand. If the Commissioners do not fully affirm the order of the Administrative Law Judge, the Commission may instruct Appellate Counsel or staff to draft a proposed order to be considered in further deliberations and at a future Commission meeting.

C. **Commission Consideration of Adoption of Final Orders in the Following Cases:**

1. **Brent Smith v. Groendyke Transport Inc. and Great West Casualty Company, File #CM3-2023-05175W**

Claimant filed an appeal from the order issued by Administrative Law Judge Egan. Susan H. Jones appeared for the Claimant and Nichole S. Bryant appeared for the Respondent.

This case came on for Oral Argument on August 15, 2025. After reviewing the record, hearing oral arguments, and deliberating, Commissioner Biggs moved to take this case under advisement.

**Possible Action:**

Possible action may include, but is not limited to: taking no action; continuing the matter; affirming the order and decision of the Administrative Law Judge and issuing an order to that effect; or taking preliminary action in the matter to reverse, modify, or remand. If the Commissioners do not fully affirm the order of the Administrative Law Judge, the Commission may instruct Appellate Counsel or staff to draft a proposed order to be considered in further deliberations and at a future Commission meeting.

2. **Johnny Schmidt v. Spartan Nash Co. and Indemnity Ins. Co. of N. America, File #CM3-2024-06356J**

Claimant filed an appeal from the order issued by Administrative Law Judge Egan. Joe Farnan appeared for the Claimant and R. Jay McAtee appeared for the Respondent.

This case came on for Oral Argument on October 3, 2025. After reviewing the record, hearing oral arguments, and deliberating, Commissioner Biggs moved to take this case under advisement.

**Possible Action:**

Possible action may include, but is not limited to: taking no action; continuing the matter; affirming the order and decision of the Administrative Law Judge and issuing an order to that effect; or taking preliminary action in the matter to reverse, modify, or remand. If the

Commissioners do not fully affirm the order of the Administrative Law Judge, the Commission may instruct Appellate Counsel or staff to draft a proposed order to be considered in further deliberations and at a future Commission meeting.

**3. Jeremy Lewis v. City of Moore/Moore Public Schools, File #CM3-2025-01063P**

Claimant filed an appeal from the order issued by Administrative Law Judge Egan. Brandon J. Burton appeared for the Claimant and Jon L. Derouen Jr. appeared for the Respondent.

This case came on for Oral Argument on October 3, 2025. After reviewing the record, hearing oral arguments, and deliberating, Commissioner Biggs moved to take preliminary action to reverse and remand the ALJ's order.

**Possible Action:**

Possible action may include, but is not limited to: taking no action; continuing the matter; affirming the order and decision of the Administrative Law Judge and issuing an order to that effect; or taking preliminary action in the matter to reverse, modify, or remand. If the Commissioners do not fully affirm the order of the Administrative Law Judge, the Commission may instruct Appellate Counsel or staff to draft a proposed order to be considered in further deliberations and at a future Commission meeting.

**ADJOURNMENT.....Presiding Appellate Officer, Commissioner Tilly**