

SPECIAL PENNSYLVANIA WORKERS' COMPENSATION ALERT

Pennsylvania Bureau of Workers' Compensation Prepares for Launch of New Website

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The Pennsylvania Bureau of Workers' Compensation is finalizing its plans to launch its new website this fall. The Bureau promises that it will be more user friendly for those actively involved in the workers' compensation community. This includes not only lawyers and judges, but claimants, defendants and insurance companies. The website is called the Workers' Compensation Automation and Integration System (WCAIS).

According to a recent article in the *Pennsylvania Business Journal* by Jeff Blumenthal, the new system will be virtually paperless. In the article, Deputy Secretary for Compensation and Insurance Liz Crum is quoted as saying that the website will be a major upgrade from the current system and will result in a significant cost savings. Ms. Crum also said she is hopeful that the new system would lead to increased electronic filings. Presently, 80 percent of cases are filed online, but not in real time, a feature that Ms. Crum believes will cause that number to be

100 percent. Participants will also be able to file motions, request information about claims and request subpoenas.

Registration for WCAIS will be necessary. According to Ms. Crum, those who register will only have access to cases in which they or their organization have an interest. The first phase of the launch will take place in the fall, when the site will go live for cases that are pending with the Workers' Compensation Appeal Board. The second phase involves cases that are with Workers' Compensation Judges.

Further information about the project can be obtained by sending an email with an individual's name and e-mail address to RA-LI-PA-WCAIS-UP@pa.gov. Information is also available at http://www.portal.state.pa.us/portal/server.pt/community/workers_compensation/10386.

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