



Workers' Compensation

Workers' compensation often represents a significant expense for Ohio employers. An award of permanent total disability compensation can easily cost a self-insuring employer in excess of \$500,000. A claim filed against a state fund contributing employer may result in the employer being removed from a group rating program and thereby cause a substantial increase in that employer's workers' compensation costs.

We have one of the largest workers' compensation practices in Ohio and represent many employers in defense of workers' compensation claims. On a daily basis, our lawyers handle administrative hearings in the Industrial Commission of Ohio at which vocational and medical expert evidence is offered, witnesses are examined and cross-examined, and legal arguments are presented. To enhance efficiency and economy, we use experienced paralegals to help prepare for hearings, which then are covered by attorneys from our Cleveland, Columbus, and Cincinnati offices.

The same efficiencies and experience mark our workers' compensation appellate practice. After an administrative decision is rendered, disputed issues may proceed to court for trial *de novo* or special court proceedings in which some issues are presented on the record established before the Industrial Commission. Our lawyers are experienced and skilled trial lawyers who successfully try cases before juries throughout the State of Ohio. In addition, our firm often serves as counsel to *amici curiae* in briefing important workers' compensation issues that arise in cases pending before the Ohio Supreme Court.

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