

PRACTICE CONTACT

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WORKERS' COMPENSATION

Workers' compensation is a big-ticket item for Ohio employers. An award of permanent total disability compensation can easily cost a self-insuring employer in excess of \$1 million. A successful claim against a state fund employer can exclude the employer from group rating and cause an enormous increase in workers' compensation premium.

We have the largest workers' compensation defense practice in Ohio. On a daily basis, our lawyers handle administrative hearings at the Industrial Commission of Ohio, where vocational and medical expert evidence is offered, witnesses are questioned and legal arguments made. To achieve efficiency and economy, we use experienced paralegals to help prepare for hearings, handled by attorneys from our Cleveland, Columbus, Cincinnati and Akron offices.

Ohio's workers' compensation system also spawns much civil litigation. After an administrative decision is rendered, disputed issues often proceed to court for trial *de novo* or special proceedings in which issues are decided on the record established before the Industrial Commission. Our lawyers are skilled trial advocates who successfully present cases throughout the State of Ohio. In addition, our firm often serves as counsel to *amici curiae* in briefing important workers' compensation cases pending before the Ohio Supreme Court. Vorys is the general counsel to the Ohio Self-Insurers Association and has served in that role for more than a quarter century.