

**MINUTES OF THE ILLINOIS WORKERS' COMPENSATION
ADVISORY BOARD MEETING
HELD ON JUNE 30, 2025 at 10:00 AM
69 W WASHINGTON, 9TH FLOOR, CHICAGO and VIA WEBEX**

Board Members Present via Webex:

Mark Denzler
Tim Drea
Karen Harris
Mitchell Horwitz
Juan Carlos Lopez
Mark Prince
Sean Stott

Not Present:

Aaron Anderson
Robert Karr
Jill Kastner
Charles "Denne" Knell
Louise Medina

IWCC Members Present in Person:

Michael J. Brennan, Chairman
Annette Roti, Chief of Staff (via Webex)
Kris Tharp, Conf. Asst. to the Chairman (Via Webex)
Whitney Martin, Research and Education Manager
Cole D. Garrett, Deputy General Counsel

On June 30, 2025, at 10:00 AM, Chairman Michael J. Brennan reconvened a meeting of the Workers' Compensation Commission Advisory Board initially called to order on June 16, 2025, and suspended for caucus of the Board's representative classes. Chairman Brennan acknowledged a quorum and the selected spokespersons of the Employer and Employee Classes were present.

Chairman Brennan advised that on June 16, 2025, in closed session pursuant to Sections 2(c)(1) and (3) of the Open Meetings Act, the Board had interviewed and discussed eleven incumbent Arbitrators for reappointment to Arbitrator positions, one incumbent Arbitrator for appointment to a Commissioner vacancy or otherwise reappointment as Arbitrator, and one candidate for appointment to the potential Arbitrator vacancy if the incumbent Arbitrator was appointed Commissioner. Chairman Brennan asked for a spokesperson from each of the Board's representative groups to communicate each group's recommendations.

Member Mark Denzler spoke on behalf of the Employer Members. The Employer Members recommended the following candidates for reappointment to Arbitrator positions: **Kurt Carlson, Frank Brady, Dennis O'Brien, Jacqueline Hickey, Roma Parikh Dalal, Efi Poziopolous James, Elaine Llerena, Edward Lee, and Frank Soto.** The Employer Members took no position regarding the reappointment of **William Gallagher** and **Michael Glaub.** The Employer Members recommended not reappointing **William Mclaughlin** to the position of Arbitrator, indicating he has insufficient knowledge of the law. The Employer Members did not recommend appointing **Khama Sharp** as an acceptable new candidate to fill an Arbitrator vacancy, indicating he would be a good candidate for another position, but due to his lack of experience in workers' compensation law, he would be unsuited for the role of Arbitrator. Lastly, the Employer Members recommended **Frank Soto** as an acceptable new candidate to fill a Commissioner vacancy.

Member Tim Drea spoke on behalf of the Employee members. The Employee Members recommended the following candidates for reappointment to Arbitrator positions: **Kurt Carlson, William Gallagher, Frank Brady, Dennis O'Brien, Jacqueline Hickey, Roma Parikh Dalal, Michael Glaub, Efi Poziopolous James, Elaine Llerena, Edward Lee, William McLaughlin, and Frank Soto.** The Employee members further recommended **Khama Sharp** as an acceptable new candidate to fill an Arbitrator vacancy. Lastly, the Employee Members recommended **Frank Soto** as an acceptable new candidate to fill a Commissioner vacancy.

Chairman Brennan indicated it is customary for some practicing attorneys to recuse themselves and abstain from the vote in support or against Arbitrator and Commissioner candidates. Prior to the meeting, Member Jill Kastner indicated by email she could not attend but specified that she was abstaining from making any recommendation as to the candidates or reappointments. Member Charles "Denne" Knell is also a practicing attorney but was not present at the meeting. Member Mark Prince indicated in the meeting he abstained from making any recommendation and was noted as "present." Member Mitchell Horwitz was present at the meeting and stated he participated in the recommendation and "votes with [the Employee Members]."

Chairman Brennan then indicated that the Commission would prepare a letter communicating the Board's recommendations and comments to Governor Pritzker. With no New Business or further business to discuss and no members of the public at the meeting, Chairman Brennan called for a motion to adjourn. At 10:07 AM, Member Tim Drea so moved, Member Mitchell Horwitz seconded the motion, and the motion to adjourn carried unanimously.