

### Agency Purpose

The Workers' Compensation Court of Appeals (WCCA) was established by the legislature as the exclusive statewide authority to decide all questions of law and fact in workers' compensation disputes within the court's appellate jurisdiction as provided by M.S. 175A and 176.

### Core Functions

The court consists of five judges appointed by the governor and confirmed by the state senate. The governor designates one of the five as chief judge, who has responsibility for the administration of the court. The court performs an appellate function, reviewing decisions of the Workers' Compensation Division of the Department of Labor and Industry, and the Office of Administrative Hearings. This includes:

- ◆ reviewing the evidentiary record created by the initial decision making body;
- ◆ presiding over oral arguments;
- ◆ conducting necessary legal research;
- ◆ deciding the issues; and
- ◆ issuing appropriate written orders, decisions, and memoranda. Decisions are written to inform the court's clientele of the basis of the decisions and to create a body of law pertaining to workers' compensation issues. Decisions of this court are appealable directly to the Minnesota Supreme Court.

### Operations

- ⇒ To deliver services as expeditiously as possible while maintaining the integrity of the decision-making function.
- ⇒ To produce high quality and consistent decisions on a timely basis in order to provide the quick and efficient delivery of indemnity and medical benefits to qualified injured workers at a reasonable cost to employers.
- ⇒ To provide economic stability for injured workers and their families in financial crises due to work-related illnesses and injuries.
- ⇒ To provide for timely cure and treatment of work-related illnesses and injuries.
- ⇒ To help provide a competitive business climate for Minnesota employers.
- ⇒ To provide direction and motivation for employers to create safe and healthy work environments for employees.

### Budget

The budget for FY 2004-05 totals \$3.236 million. The WCCA is funded by a direct appropriation from the workers' compensation special fund. The court currently has the equivalent of 13.65 full-time employees.

### At A Glance

The court has attempted to produce decisions which are consistent and which bring predictability to the resolution of workers' compensation disputes. We believe that this goal has been achieved to a large extent and has been a factor in reducing the amount of litigation in the workers' compensation system.

The primary factors influencing operations of the court continue to be the number of work-related injuries sustained and the extent of litigation over benefit entitlement. Other factors include workplace safety, new legislation, insurance costs, medical costs, and economic conditions.

**Contact**

Workers' Compensation Court of Appeals  
Minnesota Judicial Center  
25 Reverend Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Boulevard  
Saint Paul, Minnesota 55155-1500

World Wide Web Home Page: <http://www.workerscomp.state.mn.us>. Information available includes: WCCA Decisions 1999 to the Present and Rules of Practice.

**General Information:**

Phone: (651) 296-6526

Fax: (651) 297-2520

*Dollars in Thousands*

	Current		Forecast Base		Biennium 2006-07
	FY2004	FY2005	FY2006	FY2007	
<b><u>Direct Appropriations by Fund</u></b>					
<b>Workers Compensation</b>					
Current Appropriation	1,618	1,618	1,618	1,618	3,236
<b>Forecast Base</b>	<b>1,618</b>	<b>1,618</b>	<b>1,618</b>	<b>1,618</b>	<b>3,236</b>
Change		0	0	0	0
% Biennial Change from 2004-05					0%
 <b><u>Expenditures by Fund</u></b>					
<b>Direct Appropriations</b>					
Workers Compensation	1,437	1,799	1,618	1,618	3,236
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,437</b>	<b>1,799</b>	<b>1,618</b>	<b>1,618</b>	<b>3,236</b>
 <b><u>Expenditures by Category</u></b>					
Total Compensation	1,244	1,494	1,320	1,320	2,640
Other Operating Expenses	193	305	298	298	596
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,437</b>	<b>1,799</b>	<b>1,618</b>	<b>1,618</b>	<b>3,236</b>
 <b><u>Expenditures by Program</u></b>					
Workers Comp Ct Of Appeals	1,437	1,799	1,618	1,618	3,236
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,437</b>	<b>1,799</b>	<b>1,618</b>	<b>1,618</b>	<b>3,236</b>
 <b>Full-Time Equivalent (FTE)</b>	 <b>13.8</b>	 <b>13.8</b>	 <b>13.8</b>	 <b>13.8</b>	