

**WORKERS' COMPENSATION APPEALS BOARD
STATE OF CALIFORNIA**

WILLIAM MCGRANN, *Applicant*

vs.

**MCDONNELL DOUGLAS; CALIFORNIA INSURANCE GUARANTEE ASSOCIATION
for INDUSTRIAL INDEMNITY COMPANY, in liquidation,
administered by SEDGWICK CMS, *Defendants***

**Adjudication Number: ADJ2176356
Anaheim District Office**

**OPINION AND ORDERS
DISMISSING PETITION
FOR DISQUALIFICATION
AND DISMISSING
PETITION FOR REMOVAL**

Applicant seeks disqualification of the workers' compensation administrative law judge (WCJ) based upon the allegation that the WCJ is biased. Applicant further seeks removal from the WCJ's "implicit allowance or failure to control the defense's overbroad HIPAA release request." It appears that defendant may have requested that applicant agree to sign a HIPAA release, and applicant appears to object.

We have not received an answer from defendant. The WCJ filed a Report and Recommendation on Petition for Disqualification and Petition for Removal (Report) recommending that we deny both petitions.

We have considered the allegations of the Petition for Disqualification, the Petition for Removal and the contents of the WCJ's Report. Based on our review of the record and based upon the WCJ's analysis of the merits contained in the WCJ's Report, we will dismiss the Petition for Disqualification as moot, because applicant obtained a change of venue from the Anaheim district office to the Long Beach district office following the filing of the Petition, and thus, the WCJ has been reassigned. We will also dismiss the Petition for Removal as applicant failed to identify any order or decision of the WCJ from which removal is sought.

Pursuant to WCAB Rule 10955:

(a) At any time within 20 days after the service of the order or decision, or of the occurrence of the action in issue, any party may petition for removal based upon one or more of the following grounds:

(1) The order, decision or action will result in significant prejudice.

(2) The order, decision or action will result in irreparable harm.

(Cal. Code Regs., tit. 8, § 10955(a).)

Here petitioner does not identify any order or decision of the WCJ from which removal is being sought.¹ Instead, petitioner argues as to what petitioner perceives the WCJ has implicitly done. That is not a valid basis for removal. There is not presently any order or decision from the WCJ that is ripe for adjudication.

Upon return, applicant may request a hearing at the Long Beach district office to address any pending discovery disputes. After the WCJ issues an order or decision regarding the discovery dispute, any aggrieved party may seek appropriate relief.

Accordingly, we will dismiss the Petition for Disqualification as moot and dismiss the Petition for Removal as not ripe for adjudication.

¹ To the extent that the petition could be construed as challenging orders that issued in 2024, the petition would be dismissed as not timely.

For the foregoing reasons,

IT IS ORDERED that applicant's Petition for Disqualification of the WCJ filed on June 9, 2025, is **DISMISSED**.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that applicant's Petition for Removal filed on June 12, 2025 is **DISMISSED**.

WORKERS' COMPENSATION APPEALS BOARD

/s/ JOSEPH V. CAPURRO, COMMISSIONER

I CONCUR,

/s/ KATHERINE WILLIAMS DODD, COMMISSIONER

/s/ CRAIG SNELLINGS, COMMISSIONER



DATED AND FILED AT SAN FRANCISCO, CALIFORNIA

SEPTEMBER 30, 2025

SERVICE MADE ON THE ABOVE DATE ON THE PERSONS LISTED BELOW AT THEIR ADDRESSES SHOWN ON THE CURRENT OFFICIAL ADDRESS RECORD.

**WILLIAM MCGRANN, IN PRO PER
HERMANSON, GUZMAN & WANG, A P.C.**

EDL/mc

I certify that I affixed the official seal of
the Workers' Compensation Appeals Board
to this original decision on this date.
KL