

Office of Workers' Compensation Programs

Division of Federal Employees', Longshore and Harbor Workers' Compensation

**Annual Longshore Conference:** 

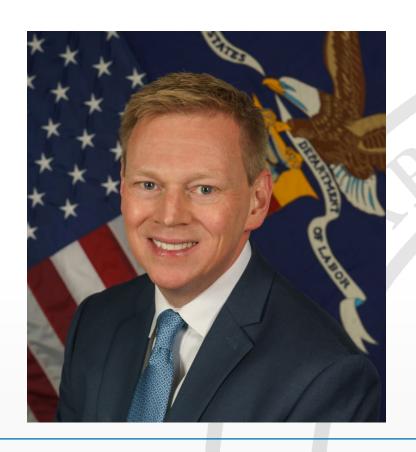
March 24 - 25, 2022



# Christopher Godfrey Director

# Office of Workers' Compensation Programs





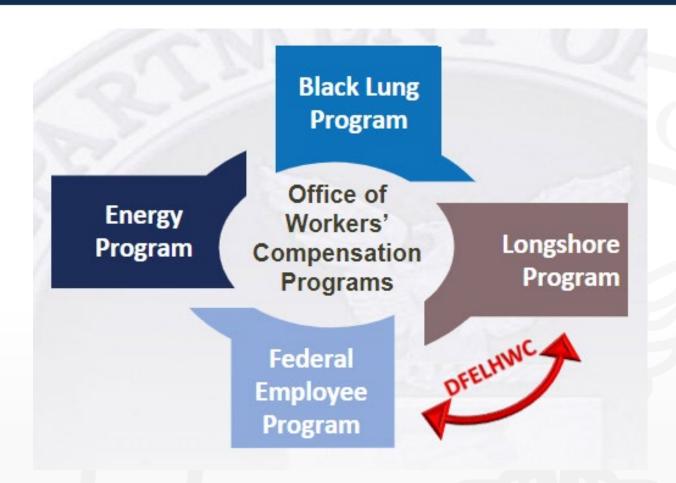
- Sworn in on January 20, 2021
- •Previously served as Chief Judge and Chairman of the Employees' Compensation Appeals Board (ECAB) under Secretary of Labor Thomas Perez in the Obama Administration
- Served as part of ECAB's leadership until his appointment as OWCP Director



# **OWCP Programs**

- Each of OWCP's four programs provides workers' compensation benefits to different sets of workers.
- The Federal Employees' Compensation Act program serves injured or ill federal employees. Beneficiaries of the program, which has been in place for over 100 years, include Federal Bureau of Investigation agents, postal workers, office workers, emergency responders, forest rangers, air traffic controllers, and many others.
- The Longshore program serves those engaged in maritime work, such as dockworkers, longshore workers, shipbuilders, as well as government contractors outside of the United States and certain employees working on the Outer Continental Shelf.
- The Black Lung program supports coal miners, construction workers, and transportation workers who are regularly exposed to respirable coal mine dust and who have pneumoconiosis, more commonly known as black lung disease.
- The Energy program serves current and former nuclear weapons workers who have been exposed to radiation or other toxic substances at covered Department of Energy and designated private facilities, such as nuclear physicists, uranium miners and millers, and the plumbers, electricians, office workers, janitors and others who maintained the facilities.





# FECA and the Longshore program



# Benefits of the Longshore – FECA merger

- More hiring
- Shared Resources
  - Outgoing Correspondence
  - Back File Conversion
- ECOMP



# **Getting Back to Normal**

- Reduced Footprint
- Expanded Telework
- Reentry Plan
- OWCP Mentoring Program



# Longshore in 2022 and Beyond

#### Penalties

# Regulations

DOL/OWCP RIN: 1240-AA17 Publication ID: Fall 2021

Title: Longshore and Harbor Workers' Compensation Act: Civil Money Penalties Procedures

Abstract:

The Office of Workers' Compensation Programs (OWCP) administers the Longshore and Harbor Workers' Compensation Act and the Longshore Act's extensions. The Longshore Act sets out monetary penalties that OWCP may assess against Longshore employers or their insurance carriers when they fail to timely file certain reports or falsify those reports, or when employers discriminate against employees for exercising their rights under the Act. To promote accountability and ensure fairness, OWCP will propose new rules for imposing and reviewing civil money penalties prescribed by the Longshore Act. The new rules will set forth the procedures to contest OWCP's determinations. OWCP had previously included this topic in RIN 1240-AA13 but has since decided to propose these rules in a separate NPRM.

Agency: Department of Labor(DOL)

RIN Status: Previously published in the Unified Agenda

Major: No

CFR Citation: 20 CFR 702 Legal Authority: 33 U.S.C. 939

Legal Deadline: None

Timetable:

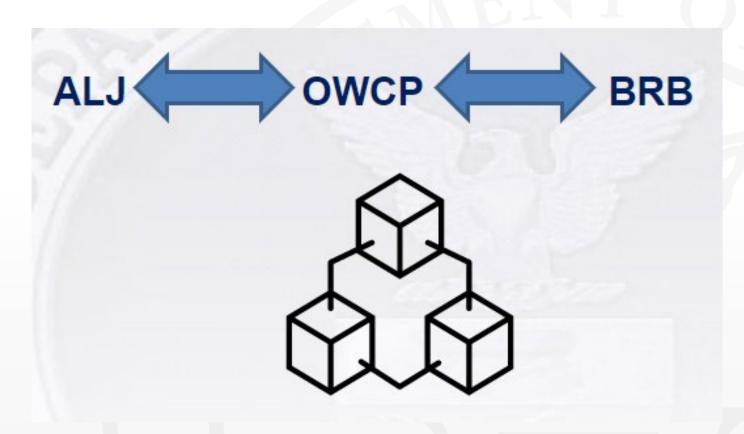
Priority: Substantive, Nonsignificant

Agenda Stage of Rulemaking: Proposed Rule Stage

Unfunded Mandates: No



# **Electronic File Transfer**





# **Electronic File Transfer**

# What can you do?

- 1. Do <u>not</u> password protect any documents that are uploaded via E-File/Serve (EFS). EFS is a secure system that uses the latest security protocols to accept, transmit, and store files.
- 2. Before uploading a file, make sure the file is not damaged and can be opened by standard Adobe Acrobat Reader software.

# Stephanie Brown, Deputy Director of Longshore Claims

Division of Federal Employees', Longshore and Harbor Workers' Compensation (DFELHWC)

# **Administration of Claims**

and

Claims Processes



# **Compensation Districts**

Eastern, Southern & Western

EASTERN DISTRICT

SOUTHERN DISTRICT WESTERN DISTRICT

Suboffices

Boston – Theresa Magyar New York – Theresa Magyar, Todd Bruininks Norfolk – Theresa Magyar Suboffices

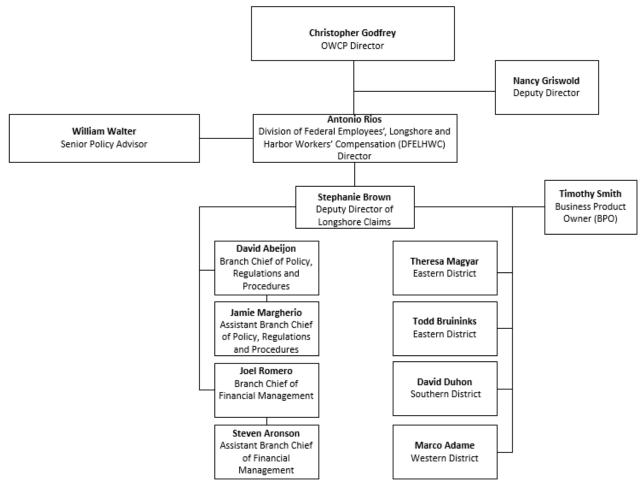
<u>Jacksonville</u> – David Duhon <u>New Orleans</u> – David Duhon Houston – David Duhon Suboffices

Seattle – Marco Adame
San Francisco – Marco Adame
Long Beach – Marco Adame

**Industry Notice #175** 



# <u>DFELHWC – Longshore Organizational Chart</u>





# **Longshore Workforce**

- District Reorganization and OWCS provide flexibility to hire throughout the country
- Larger talent pool to fill vacancies/needs
- 12 new CEs hired and onboard
  - Succession Planning
  - Training
- Workload Equity
- Flexibility to reorganize and reassign based on patterns/trends that drive the workload



# CE Workload – Case Assignment breakdown as of 05/04/2020

District	Number of CEs	% of Total	% of cases by CE
EASTERN	15	52.39%	48%
SOUTHERN	19	26.75%	20%
WESTERN	9	20.86%	32%

**Case assignment breakdown post-OWCS** 



# CE Workload – Case Assignment breakdown as of 01/05/2021

District	Number of CEs	% of Total	% of cases by CE
EASTERN	20	51.52%	38%
SOUTHERN	13	29.42%	34%
WESTERN	10	19.06%	28%

Reassignment of Cases and CEs on 01/05/2021 to establish a more equitable distribution of cases.



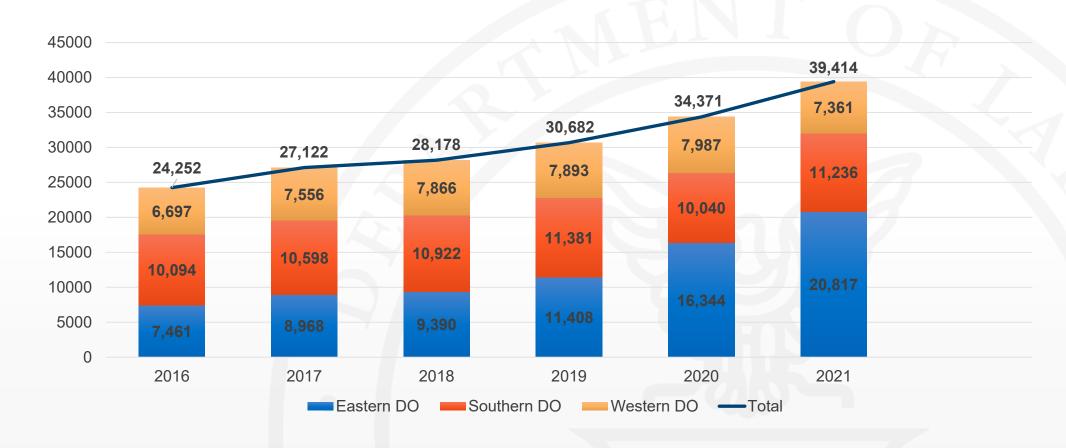
# CE Workload – Case Assignment breakdown as of 02/13/2022

District	Number of CEs	% of Total	% of cases by CE
EASTERN	24	52.5%	35%
SOUTHERN	13	28.7%	35%
WESTERN	10	18.7%	30%

Case Assignments following 12 new hires in 2022.



# **New Cases Created by District Office**





# Let's work together!



- Greater focus on resolving disputes through informal process
  - § 702.317(c)
  - Upon receipt of the completed forms, the district director, after checking them for completeness and after any further conferences that, in his or her opinion, are warranted [emphasis added]...
- Narrow down issues before referral to the ALJ
- Judicial Economy

# Antonio Rios, Director

Division of Federal Employees', Longshore and Harbor Workers' Compensation (DFELHWC)



# **DBA Waivers**

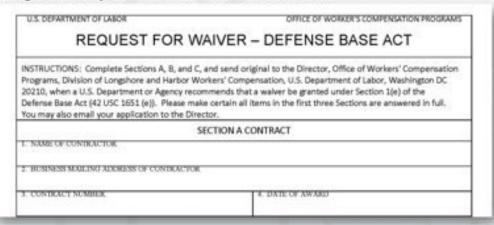
11/15/2021: Issued Transmittal - New Chapter LS Procedure Manual: 07-0600, DBA Waivers

11/22/2021: Issued Industry Notice No. 187 – Announcing to Industry PM Chapter 07-0600

12/06/2021: Held Virtual Meeting with all Heads of Procurement, Government-wide

#### **DBA Waiver Requests & Renewals**

- The request for waiver must be made by the government agency to the Department of Labor (DOL), OWCP.
- Waivers are granted by DOL's Director, DFELHWC.





# **Active Waivers**

#### Longshore Issued and Active Defense Base Act Waivers by Expiration Date

Expiration Date (YYYY-MM-DD)	Location	Туре	Number	Issued Date (YYYY-MM-DD)
2022-03-27	Lithuania	Geographic	2017-05	2017-03-28
2022-03-30	Latvia	Geographic	2017-06	2017-03-31
2022-04-02	Vietnam	Geographic	2016-7-B	2021-10-04
2022-04-16	India	Geographic	2016-6-C	2021-10-18
2022-04-16	United Kingdom	Geographic	2017-07	2017-04-17
2022-05-09	Czech Republic	Geographic	2017-08	2017-05-10
2022-05-29	Bosnia-Herzegovina	Geographic	2017-09	2017-05-30
2022-05-29	Romania	Geographic	2017-10	2017-05-30
2022-07-05	American Samoa	Geographic	2017-11	2017-07-06
2022-07-06	Finland	Geographic	2017-12	2017-07-07



# **Expired Waivers**

#### **Expired Defense Base Act Waivers**

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Expiration Date (YYYY-MM-DD)	Location	Туре	Number	Issued Date (YYYY-MM-DD)
2012-10-01	Spain	Geographic	2009-0502	2007-10-01
2012-10-01	Turkey	Geographic	2009-0901	2007-10-01
2013-03-01	Israel	Geographic	2009-03-02	2008-08-01
2013-12-31	Belgium	Geographic	DOD 2013-06	2013-01-31
2013-12-31	Erance	Geographic	DOD 2013-04	2013-01-01
2013-12-31	Germany	Geographic	DOD 2013-01	2013-01-01
2013-12-31	Greenland	Geographic	DOD 2013-13	2013-01-01
2013-12-31	India	Geographic	DOD 2013-13	2013-02-01
2013-12-31	Israel	Geographic	DOD 2013-05	2013-01-01
2013-12-31	Italy	Geographic	DOD 2013-03	2013-01-01

Showing 1 to 10 of 68 entries

revious

2

3

Search:

6 Z



# **Technology**

Greater focus on Technology



- Internally
  - Group training sessions (provides uniformity across the districts)
  - Coassemble
  - •E-learning



- Externally
  - Leverage technology for more facetime (conferences, outreach)



# **Technology**

WAIVER OF SERVICE BY REGISTERED OR CERTIFIED MAIL FOR EMPLOYERS AND/OR INSURANCE CARRIERS

Longshore and Harbor Workers' Compensation Act,

Form LS-801 March 2015

#### **Pilot**

- Reduce tasks
- Avoid data entry errors
- Ensure proper service





# **Technology**

#### **Back File Conversion (BFC)**

 In our quest to become fully paperless, we initiated a plan to scan and upload all paper files in OWCP possession to OWCS

#### **OWCS**

- The platform provides us flexibility to change locations (Outgoing Correspondence Center, Case Create) in case of catastrophic events
- The platform also provides the flexibility to reassign staff or work based on program needs or trends throughout the world
- Integration with ECOMP



# Welcome to ECOMP The Employees' Compensation Operations & Management Portal

### **Total Users – 485,000+**

- Includes 265,000 identify verified FECA claimants and 3,700 Energy claimants
- Longshore Claimants 1,416 registered, 1,270 identity verified

#### **Entities**

- FECA 156 Entities (law firms, unions, non-attorney reps)
- Longshore 21 Entities (all law firms)

# ECOMP Claimant Experience



# **ECOMP – Claimant Experience**

#### Welcome to your Case Dashboard

Each existing injury/illness claim you have can be found in the Cases tab of the table below.

By clicking anywhere in the row of an injury/illness claim in the table below, you will be taken to its Case Review page where you can view:

- · Case Data, including claim specific information such as Average Weekly Wage, Compensation Rate and Payment Status
- Compensation Payment History (for claimants in receipt of Special Fund payments only this will include payments issued by the Special Fund to medical providers)
- Parties to the case, including Employers and Carriers and any associated attorneys





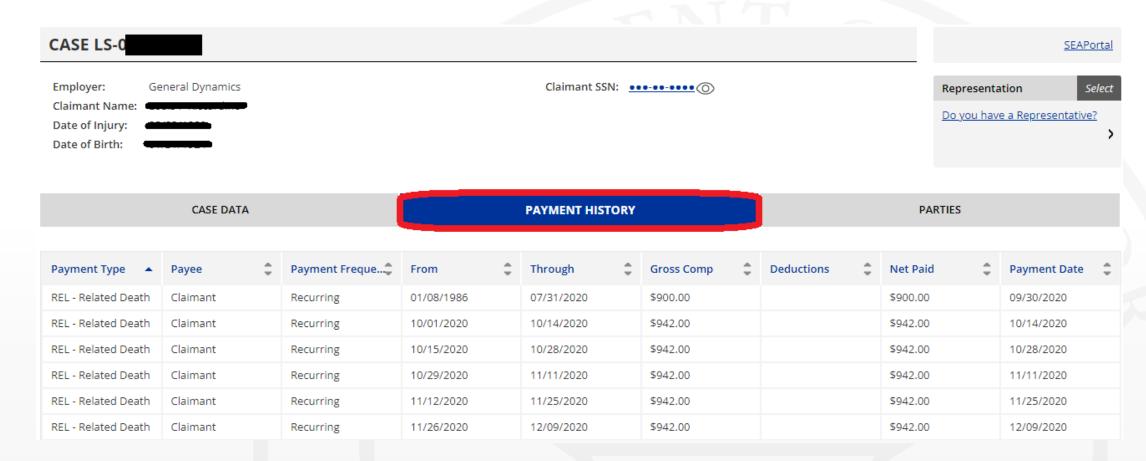
# **ECOMP – Claimant Experience**



CASE DATA	PAYMENT HISTORY	PARTIES	
Act	Longshore and Harbor Workers' Compensation Act		
Average Weekly Wage	\$834.00		
Compensation Rate	\$471.00		
Payment Status	S/F Pay Comp only - 8(f)		
Date of Knowledge	07/21/1980		
Body Part	Trunk Internal		
Appeal Status			

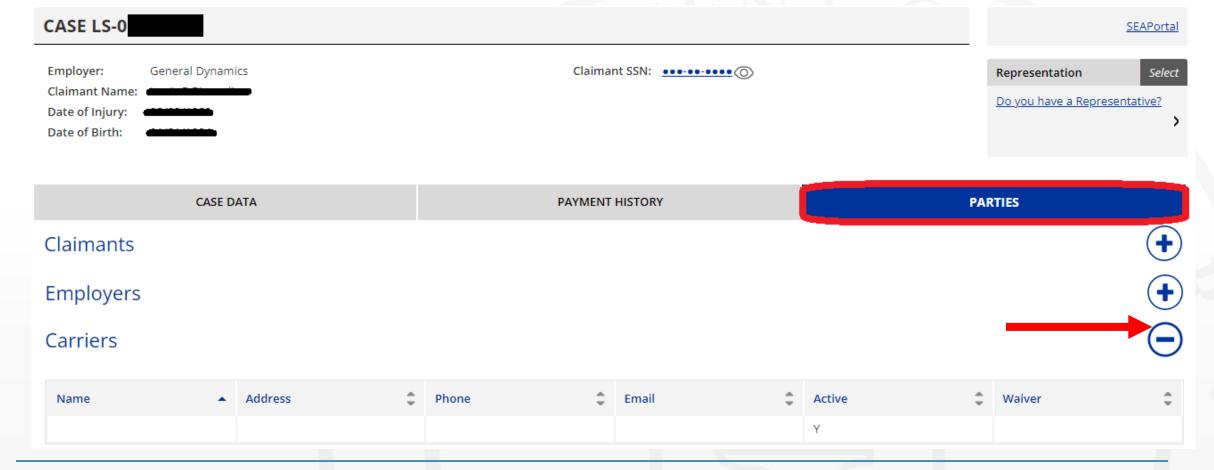


# **ECOMP – Claimant Experience**





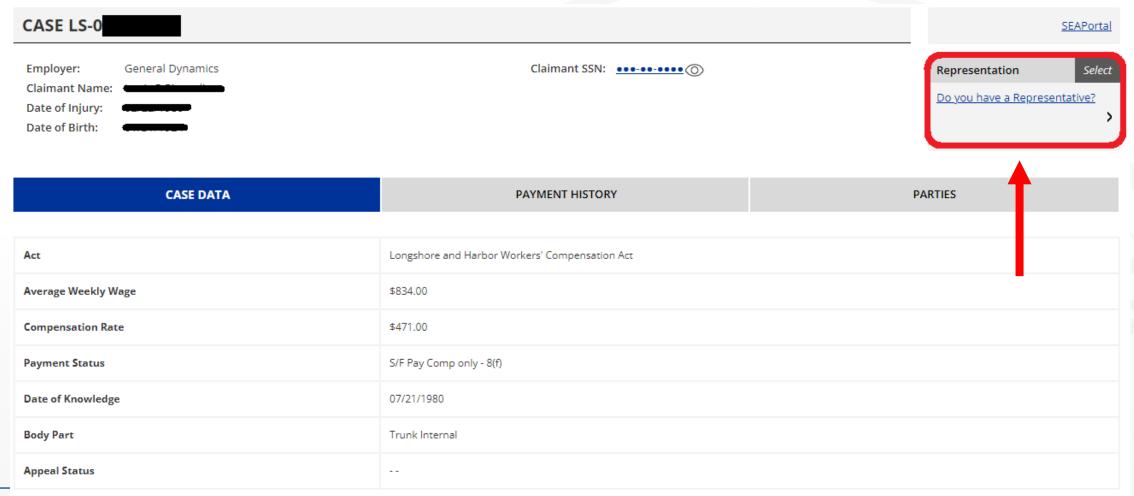
# **ECOMP – Claimant Experience**





# **New Feature –**

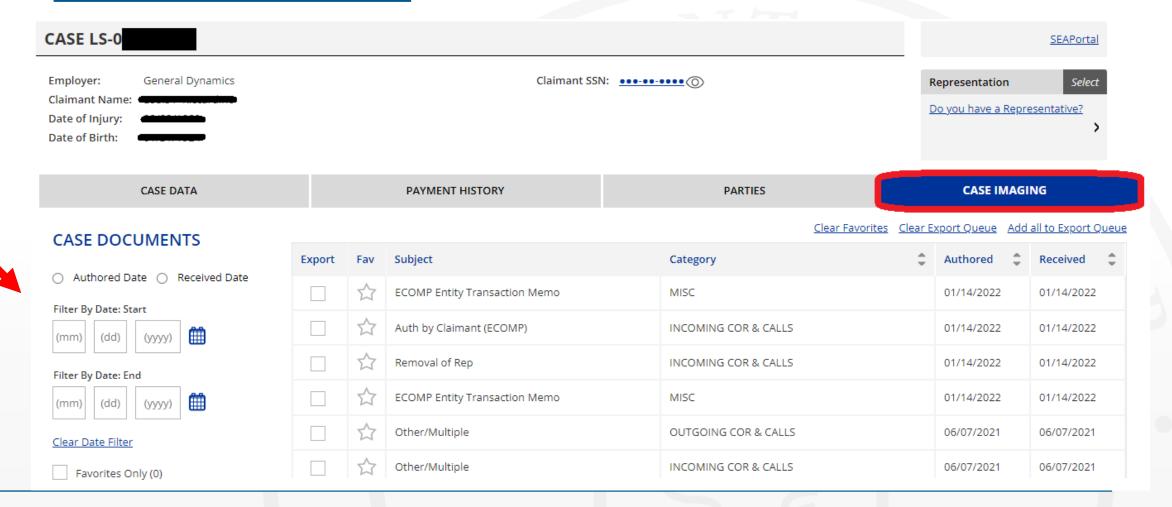
# **Coming Soon**





#### **Case Documents**

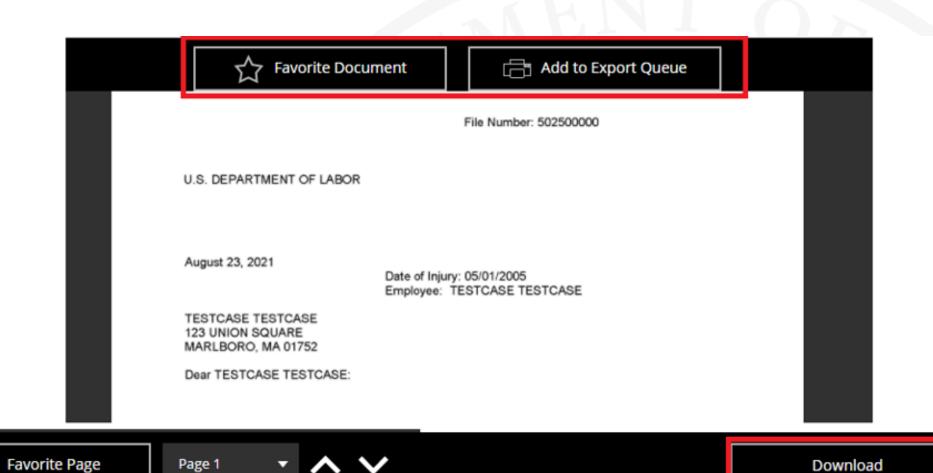
#### **Available Summer 2022**





#### **Case Documents**

### **Available Summer 2022**





# **Bulletin No. 22-XX**

<u>Purpose</u>: To announce that the Office of Workers' Compensation Programs (OWCP), Longshore Program, has added designation of a representative through ECOMP as an acceptable form of written notice of authorization for representation.

37 03/28/2022



# Jennifer Valdivieso, Deputy Director, Program and System Integrity

Division of Federal Employees', Longshore and Harbor Workers' Compensation (DFELHWC)

# ECOMP Entity Experience

# **ECOMP – Entity Experience**

Welcome to the Entities Page

https://owcp.industrypartners.dol.gov/#/

#### **Entities Overview**

Entities are individuals, business entities, or organizations that may be given access to specific OWCP case files. To be an authorized Entity user within OWCP's ECOMP portal, each user must register and be identity verified within ECOMP.

Some Entities are granted access to claimant files based solely on the claimant's designation of representation. These Entity types include attorneys/law firms, union representatives and non-attorney authorized representatives.

Other Entities have access to case files by virtue of their pre-established connection to a specific case. These Entities include Employers/Carriers in the Longshore program, which have access to case files only if they are associated with the injury claim. These Entities can also designate a representative, such as an attorney/law firm or third party administrator.

Once assigned, Entities have the ability to navigate within ECOMP for associated cases.

ECOMP provides access to the following Entity types for the FECA and Longshore Programs.

Attorneys/Law Firm
Union Representative
Authorized Representative (Non-Attorney)

Additional functionality will be added in the future.

#### **Entities**

Register for an account or sign in to get started!

Sign In Email or Username
Password
SIGN IN
Forgot password?



# **ECOMP – Entity Experience**

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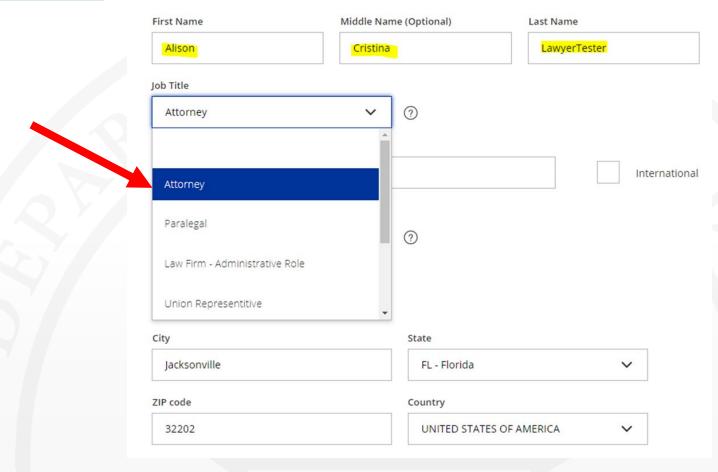
# **ECOMP – Entity Basics**

- Entity users must register in ECOMP, and Entities must be created in ECOMP.
- Claimants must register in ECOMP and select the entity representative in ECOMP. There is no other way for an entity representative to obtain access.
  - This is true even if the representative is already the designated representative for the OWCP file.
  - Selecting a representative occurs on a case-by-case basis.
- ECOMP entity registration and access is NOT required in order for a representative to represent a claimant, but if that representative wants ECOMP access, registration and claimant selection in ECOMP are required.



# **Step 1: Registration**

#### **ACCOUNT BASICS**





# **Step 1: Registration**



#### YOU'RE ALMOST DONE

An email has been sent to this email address: jhv @gmail.com Check your email and follow the instructions inside.

If you do not receive your confirmation email in 10 minutes, it may have been lost.

- 1. Check your spam folder.
- 2. Ensure that your emails service is not blocking emails from @www.ecomp.dol.gov
- 3. Make sure that the email you gave us is your correct address (if not please re-register).



# **Step 1: Registration**

#### **Rules of Behavior**

BEFORE USING THIS U.S. FEDERAL GOVERNMENT SYSTEM, YOU MUST READ AND AGREE TO THE FOLLOWING RULES OF BEHAVIOR.

#### Security:

- Users shall immediately report security vulnerabilities and violations to the Office of Workers' Compensation Programs.
- Users shall immediately report accidental or intentional disclosure of system information to the Office of Workers' Compensation Programs.
- · Users shall log out of the system when finished using the system or leaving their computers.

#### Penalties for Non-compliance:

Users who do not comply with the ROB are subject to penalties that can be imposed under the Privacy Act (when applicable), and existing policy and regulations, including:

- Suspension of system privileges; and/or
- · Criminal prosecution when provided by law.

OWCP will enforce the use of penalties against any user who willfully violates any OWCP, Department, or Federal system security (and related) policy.



I have read the above document and agree to these Rules of Behavior

NEXT



# **Step 2: Identity Verification**

#### **Identity Verification**

#### **Instructions**

Name

So that OWCP can provide a secure system, we need to verify your identity. In order to complete this process we will request confirmation of your personal information. Below please review your account information. If needed, you may also update the existing information. This information is necessary to validate your identity with a nationally accredited bureau. Once you have confirmed your personal information you may proceed to the next step. All information you share with us is secure and private. Please review your current account information below.

Alison Cristina LawyerTester

West Bay Street, Jacksonville, FL 32202
ed to provide your date of birth and social security number for required to access any OWCP claimant information. If no date led, no OWCP functionality or claimant information will be
It will only be used to verify your identity.
Confirm SSN
•••-••



# **Step 3: Create Entity Organization**

#### **Welcome to OWCP Entity Dashboard**

The OWCP Entity experience allows you, as an authorized ECOMP entity, to view the OWCP claim(s) to which you have been granted access. You will be able to view basic case data, case file documents and upload documentation direct from the individual case page.

#### **CREATE OR JOIN AN ENTITY ORGANIZATION ASSOCIATION:**

You are now registered as a verified Individual Entity user within ECOMP. The next step is to create a new Entity organization or join an existing Entity organization. This step is required prior to any case access or association.

If you belong to an Entity organization which has already registered in ECOMP, you may click "Request to Join Existing Entity" below. The Entity Manager for that Entity will approve or deny your request and you will be notified of the Entity Manager's decision via an email from ECOMP. You may revoke your request to join an Entity organization at any time.

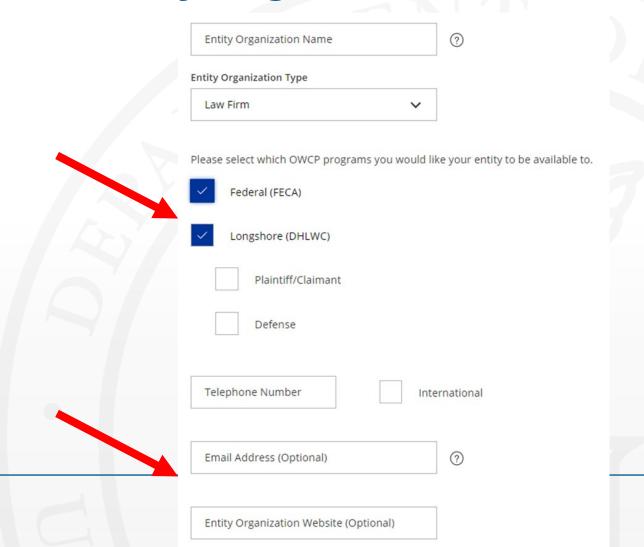
If your Entity organization has not yet been created ECOMP, please click "Request to Create Entity" below.

REQUEST TO JOIN EXISTING ENTITY

REQUEST TO CREATE ENTITY



# **Step 3: Create Entity Organization**





# **Step 3: Create Entity Organization**

#### Claimant Contact Selection:

- Would you like to request that this Entity Organization be contacted outside of ECOMP prior to selection in ECOMP?
  - OWCP and ECOMP cannot enforce this communication or contact.

#### **Required Confirmations:**

- That the information is accurate, and that the Entity exists as displayed.
- That you assume responsibility for the Entity and will be the Entity Manager (additional Entity Managers can be added later).
- Upon creation, the Entity will be visible and selectable by claimants and other Entity users (setting can be updated after creation).



# **Entity Creation Successful**

Entity organization creation successful. To view case dashboard click here

### Welcome to your OWCP Entity Manager Dashboard

Your Entity Manager Dashboard allows you, as an Entity Manager, to update your Entity's information and view the individuals in your organization. You may also approve and deny requests to join your Entity organization in ECOMP, and invite individuals to join your Entity organization.

INVITE MEMBERS

UPDATE ENTITY INFORMATION

Active Use	rs (1)	Pending User R	equests (	0) Reject	ed Users (	(0)	
Name	÷	Title	\$	Join Date	Cases	Primary Contact Availability	\$ User Role
Alison Lawye	erTester	Attorney		09/20/2	0	Available	Entity Manage



# **Entity Organization Expansion – Option 1**

#### Administration Approval Required

To expand this organization to more than one member, the organization must request program administration approval.

This request may be initiated by clicking "Request Approval" below, your information will be sent to program administration for review, and your organization will remain in a pending state until the request is reviewed.

Your current ECOMP access, settings, and cases will remain unchanged. If approved, members may then be added (via invites and affiliation request) at will.

**REQUEST APPROVAL** 

CANCEL



# **Entity Organization Expansion – Option 1**

#### **Invite Individual Entity Members to Entity**

Return to Entity Manager Dashboard

#### INVITE INDIVIDUAL ENTITY MEMBERS

Invite individuals to be a part of your Entity organization. Upon entering the email addresses for the members you would like to invite, these individuals will receive a quick link in their email to register for ECOMP. Once they register and are identity verified, they will automatically join your entity.

	7
mail Address	

RETURN TO DASHBOARD

SEND



# **Entity Organization Expansion – Option 2**

#### **Welcome to OWCP Entity Dashboard**

The OWCP Entity experience allows you, as an authorized ECOMP entity, to view the OWCP claim(s) to which you have been granted access. You will be able to view basic case data, case file documents and upload documentation direction from the individual case page.

#### **CREATE OR JOIN AN ENTITY ORGANIZATION ASSOCIATION:**

You are now registered as a verified Individual Entity user within ECOMP. The next step is to create a new Entity organization or join an existing Entity organization. This step is required prior to any case access or association.

If you belong to an Entity organization which has already registered in ECOMP, you may click "Request to Join Existing Entity" below. The Entity Manager for that Entity will approve or deny your request and you will be notified of the Entity Manager's decision via an email from ECOMP. You may revoke your request to join an Entity organization at any time.

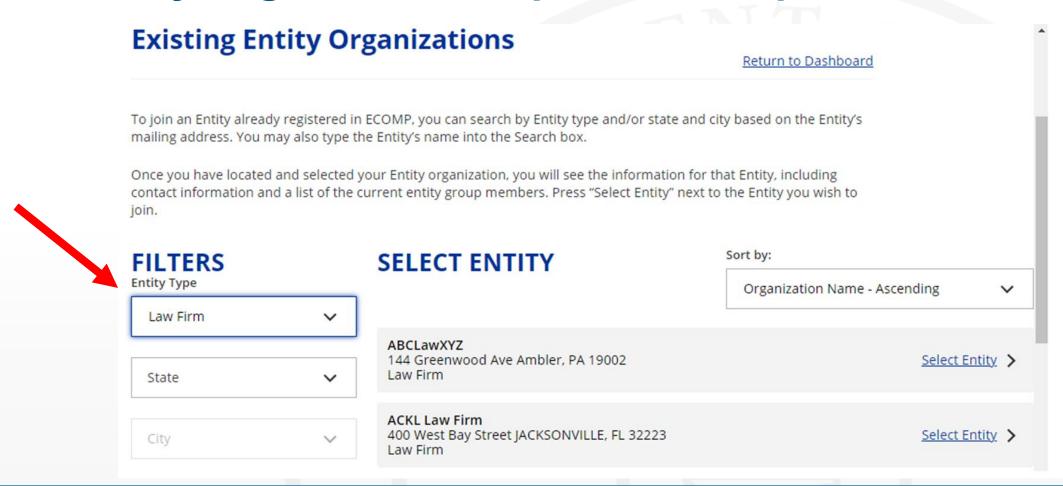
If your Entity organization has not yet been created ECOMP, please click "Request to Create Entity" below.

REQUEST TO JOIN EXISTING ENTITY

REQUEST TO CREATE ENTITY



# **Entity Organization Expansion – Option 2**





# **Entity Organization Expansion – Option 2**

#### **ACKL Law Firm**

Return to Existing Entities

#### CONTACT INFORMATION

400 West Bay Street JACKSONVILLE, FL 32223 (904) 366-0247 Entity Site

#### **EXISTING ENTITY MEMBERS**

Alison Cristina LawyerTester - Attorney

CANCEL

REQUEST TO JOIN



# **Entity Organization Expansion – Option 2**

From: noreply+uat@owcp.ecomp.dol.gov

Date: September 20, 2021 at 3:31:38 PM EDT

To: jhv434

Subject: ECOMP: Request to Join Entity ACKL Law Firm

This email is intended for:

Name: Alison LawyerTester

Username: jhv434343@gmail.com

Harley QuinnTester (<u>jhv5</u> ECOMP. ) has requested to join your entity organization in

Name:

Harley QuinnTester

Title:

Paralegal 1 4 1

Request Date:

09/20/2021

To view the request and accept or deny entry, click the link below.

https://training.owcp.industrypartners.dol.gov/#/r/dashboard/join/7604

If you did not sign up for this account, do not click this link.



# **Entity Organization Expansion – Approve/Deny**

#### Welcome to your OWCP Entity Manager Dashboard

Your Entity Manager Dashboard allows you, as an Entity Manager, to update your Entity's information and view the individuals in your organization. You may also approve and deny requests to join your Entity organization in ECOMP, and invite individuals to join your Entity organization.

INVITE MEMBERS UPDATE EN ITY INFORMATION						
Active Users (1)	Pending User Req	uests (1)	Rejected Users	(0)		
Name	<b>‡</b>	Title	\$	Join Request Date		
Harley QuinnTeste	r	Paralegal		09/20/2021		
1 result	<	1	>	Jump to page:	GO	



# **Entity Organization – Member Settings**

#### **Entity Affiliation Request**

The following individual entity member is requesting to join this entity. Please review their information and accept or deny the join

Name: Harley H QuinnTester

Title: Paralegal Email address: jhv505 Date of Join Request: 09/20/2021

Allow individual Entity Member to be selectable as Entity Primary Contact for Claimant case.

**Available for Primary Contact Selection** 

Hidden from Primary Contact Selection

Please select a user role for this individual.

Entity Manager(s) - These users will have administrative functions within this Entity organization.
Individual Entity Member(s) - These users will have access to case information if they are Entity Primary Contact, or if Claimant selects full visibility.

**Entity Manager** 

Individual Entity Member

Reason for Denial (If Applicable)

The information entered below will be shared directly with the Individual Entity Member.



# **Entity Organization Settings**

#### Welcome to your OWCP Entity Manager Dashboard

Your Entity Manager Dashboard allows you, as an Entity Manager, to update your Entity's information and view the individuals in your organization. You may also approve and deny requests to join your Entity organization in ECOMP, and invite individuals to join your Entity organization.

INVITE MEMBERS

UPDATE ENTITY INFORMATION

#### **Address Change**

The entity's address may be changed in the entity's profile in ECOMP; but doing so will NOT update the representative's address in the OWCP case file(s) to which that entity is assigned. There is no integration with the mailing address in ECOMP and OWCS. If the mailing address for the representative changes, it must be submitted by the representative for each individual case file to which that representative is associated.



# **Entity Organization Visibility Settings**

#### **Claimant Visibility**

• This setting allows the user to choose whether the entity will be visible for selection by a claimant. The default will be set to Yes, and the entity will be visible in search results and a claimant will be able to select the entity. If the setting is changed to No, the entity will not show in any search results.

#### **Entity Visibility**

• This setting allows the user to choose whether the entity will be visible to other users to request to join the entity. The default will be set to Yes, and the entity will be visible in search results and allow other registered users to request to join the entity. If the setting is changed to No, the entity will not be shown in any search results.



# **Entity Case Dashboard**

#### **Entity Case Dashboard**

Your Entity Case Dashboard allows you, as an authorized Entity, to view the case(s) to which you have been granted access. You will be able to view basic case data and case file documents. The cases associated with your Entity organization are listed below in the Case Associations tab.

The New Association Requests tab has new representation requests that are pending your response. For each you will see who is making the request with the claimant's name and case number. You must make a decision on each request to either accept the request for association, or deny the request for association. (This tab will not apply to Entities such as Longshore Employer and Carriers since case association is based solely on the parties in each claim and not on a specific request.)

If you represent a claimant and the case is not listed below, this means the claimant has not requested this association through ECOMP. While it is not a requirement that claimants or representatives use ECOMP for any proceeding in OWCP, if a representative wishes to view case data and documents in ECOMP, the claimant must request that association through ECOMP. There is no option within ECOMP for you to request access to a claimant's case. The claimant must initiate this selection in ECOMP. Helpful instructional videos to a sist claimants with selection of a representative within ECOMP are available on our HELP site.

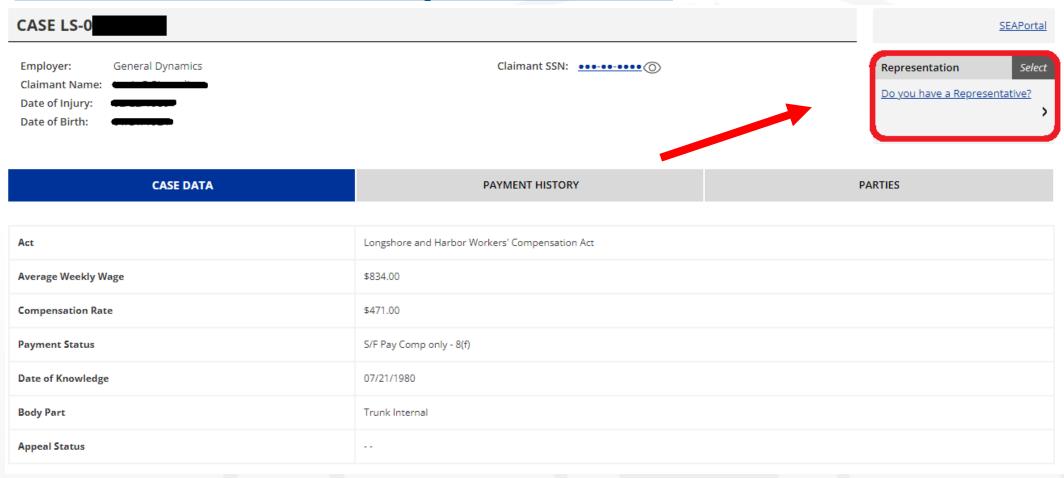


#### **ACKL LAW FIRM - CASES**

Case Association	ns (0)	) New Ass	New Association Requests (0)						
Case Number	•	Claimant	<b>‡</b>	Organiza	ation	<b>‡</b>	Status	<b>‡</b>	Primary Contact
0 results		<		1	>		Jump t	o page:	GO



# **Claimant Selects Representative**





# **Claimant Selects Representative**





# **Explanation to Claimant**

- A Representative is an individual or group who represents your interests and can give direction to OWCP regarding your claim.
- A Representative can be a single person (such as an attorney, union representative or family member acting as an authorized/lay representative) or can be a group (such as a law firm).
- OWCP has verified the identities of each Representative and Representative group listed in ECOMP.
- When you designate a Representative in ECOMP, and the Representative agrees to represent you, that Representative can view your case data (and case documents) in ECOMP in the same way you can view your own records.
- You are not required to have a Representative in order to file or pursue a claim.



# **Explanation to Claimant**

- Designating a Representative in ECOMP does not mean that individual or group has agreed to represent you. Your request to have that individual or group represent you will be sent to the designated Representative through ECOMP, but the Representative must agree to represent you before this relationship exists.
- OWCP cannot intervene on your behalf in this decision. It is solely the decision of the Representative. OWCP cannot require that a Representative or Representative Group accept a claimant's request for representation. The representative relationship is not guaranteed based on your selection in ECOMP.
- After you designate a Representative in ECOMP, your request will show as Pending until the Representative either agrees to represent you or declines your request. You will be notified via email of this decision. If the Representative declines your request, you will be able to proceed with designation of a new Representative.



# **Explanation to Claimant – Final Disclaimer**

- OWCP does not endorse or promote any of the Representatives or Representative Groups listed within ECOMP.
- You are not required to have a representative in order to file or pursue a claim.
- Although OWCP does not dictate the precise terms of representation for any Representative, the LHWCA and regulations impose certain requirements on representation. See 33 U.S.C. § 928, 20 C.F.R. §§ 702.131-135 and 702.241(e).
- OWCP provides this platform for ease of use and access, but use of this ECOMP platform is entirely voluntary.
- Claimant representatives are not required to use ECOMP in order represent OWCP claimants.



# Claimant Selects Representative

### **Assign Representation Contact Information**

You have selected the individual or group show above to be your Representative. Please review the details carefully, in particular information about whether this Representative or Representative Group requests that you contact them first, prior to making the selection in ECOMP.

If you wish to assign a specific individual within a group, please select a primary contact from the list below. This individual will receive your request for approval. If you do not have a specific preference, choose "No Primary Contact Preference". Your request will be sent to the individuals designated by that group to review new representation requests.

Once a selection has been made, click Next.

#### SELECT REPRESENTATION PRIMARY CONTACT

Representation Primary Contact is your selected representative within this organization.

**Primary Contact** 

Jeff Fischer, Lawyer





# **Claimant Selects Representative**



CASE DATA	PAYMENT HISTORY	PARTIES				
Act	Longshore and Harbor Workers' Compensation Act					
Average Weekly Wage	\$834.00					
Compensation Rate	\$471.00					
Payment Status	S/F Pay Comp only - 8(f)					
Date of Knowledge	07/21/1980					
Body Part	Trunk Internal					
Appeal Status						



# **Entity Receives Request**

#### **ENTITY NAME - CASES**





# Representative Confirms/Denies Request

#### CASE #XYZ155422

Fred Long Name: **Email Address:** claimant@email.com 12/08/1959 Date of Birth: Date of Injury: 03/10/2019 Jim Hines **Primary Contact: Entity Visibility: Full Visibility** Agency: 1126-AM - DEPARTMENT OF LAB... Adjudication Status: AB - 11/12/2019 CD - 02/21/2013 **Current Case Status:** ICD9 - 7883 - Unimplemented: 788... Conditions Accepted: Reason for Denial (If Applicable) The entered information will be shared directly with the Claimant. **ACCEPT CASE DENY CASE** 



# **OWCP Case File Documentation**

- 1. <u>ECOMP Entity Transaction Memo</u> This memo will be added to the OWCP case file when any entity related case specific transaction occurs in ECOMP, such as:
- Representation Request Denied (when a representative denies a claimant's request for representation, in which case the reason for the denial will show on the memo)
- Representation Request Revoked by Claimant (when the claimant revokes a request for representation prior to the representative deciding)
- 2. <u>Authorization of Representative Memo</u> This memo will be added to the case file after the claimant has chosen a representative in ECOMP <u>and</u> the representative has agreed to represent the claimant in ECOMP.
- 3. <u>Removal of Representation Memo</u> This memo will be used to document that a representative is no longer associated with a case. This may stem from an action by the claimant or by the representative. If either party removes the association, all case access for the representative is terminated.



# **ECOMP – Next Steps – Target Timeframe 2023**

#### **Self-Insured Employer/Carrier Experience – Phase 1**

- Registration and Identity Verification Required
- Longshore Admin approval required will link/confirm Sequence Number
- Case Access based only on Sequence Number
- Can view Case Data and Case Documents

#### **Self-Insured/Employer/Carrier – Experience Phase 2**

- Ability to assign a Law Firm
- Can view Case Data and Case Documents same as claimant chosen representative

#### **Self-Insured/Employer/Carrier – Experience Phase 3**

- Third Party Administrator Registration
- Ability for Employer/Carrier to assign a TPA to a case
- TPA can view Case Data and Case Documents

Dates subject to change



## David Abeijón, Branch Chief of Policy, Regulations and Procedures for Longshore

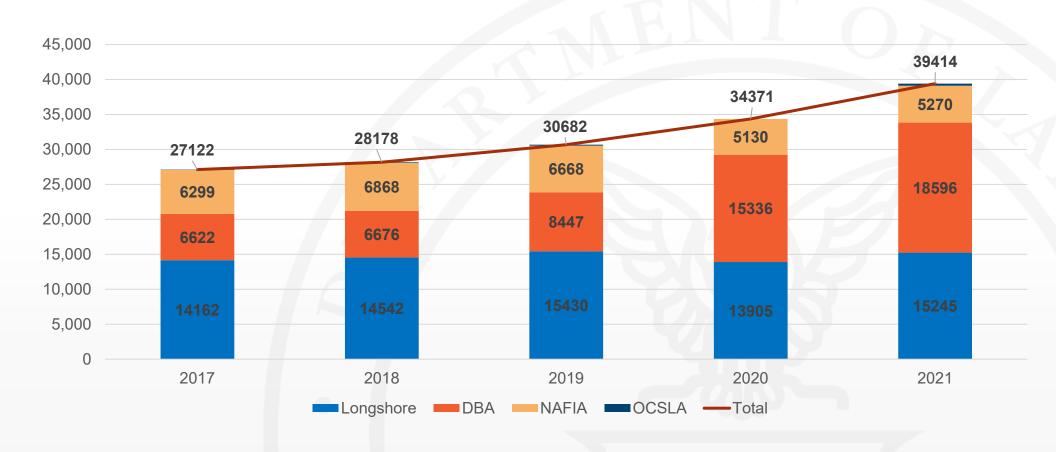
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- Claim Trends
- Longshore Scorecard
- Longshore Performance
- Industry Notices
- Communications

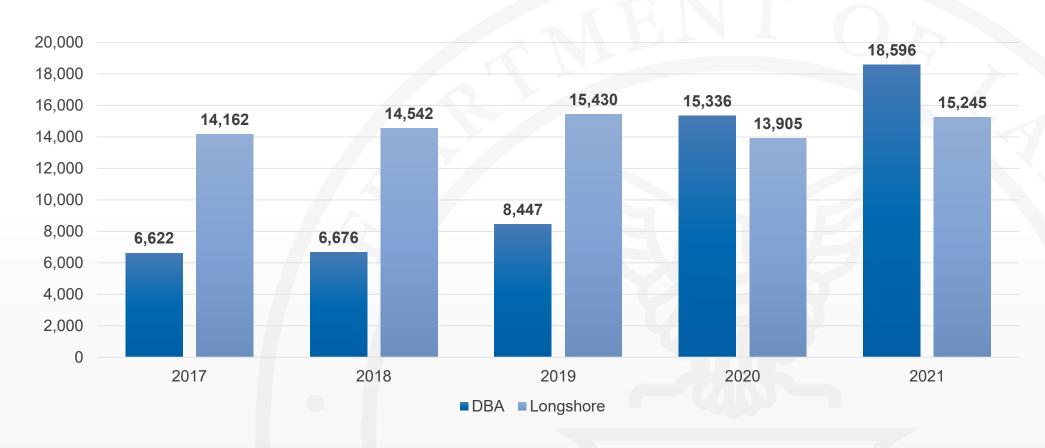


#### **New Case Created by ACT**



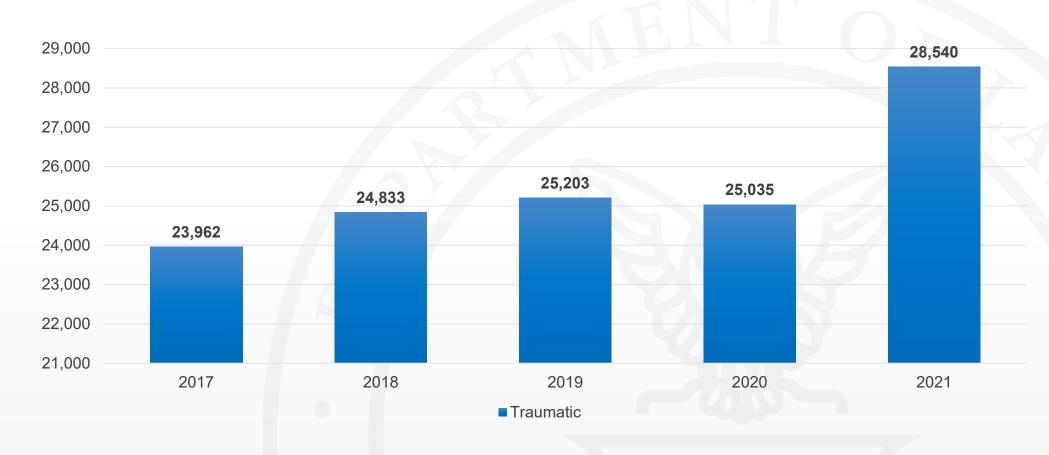


## Trends – Claims Reported FY2017 – FY2021 Longshore & DBA



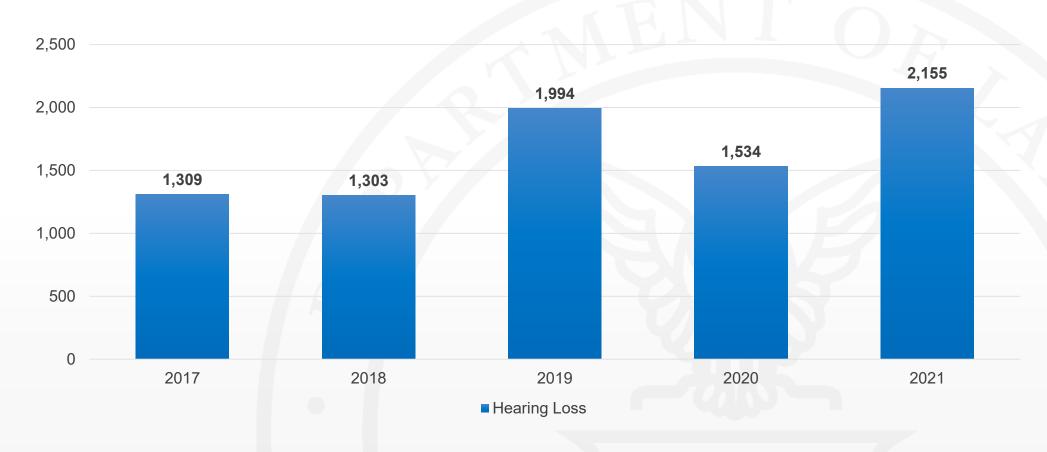


## **Trends – Claims Reported FY2017 – FY2021 Traumatic**



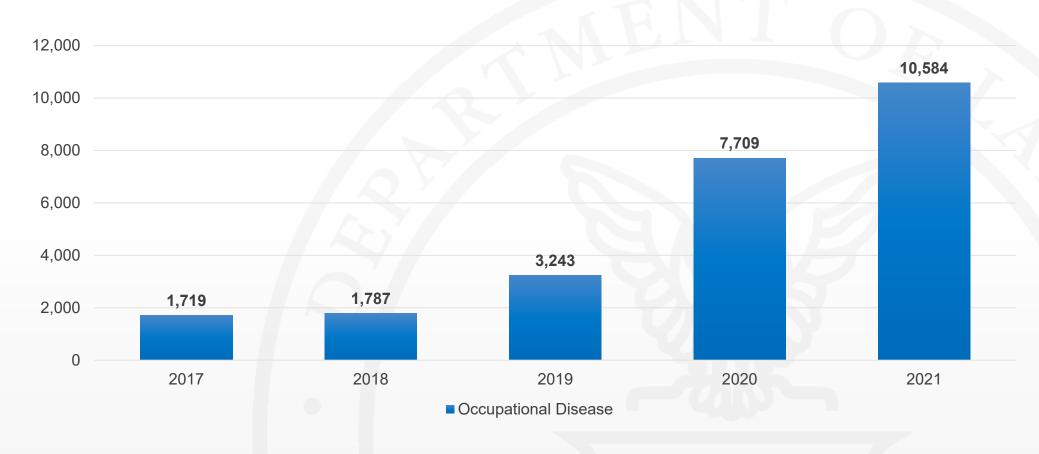


## Trends – Claims Reported FY2017 – FY2021 Hearing Loss



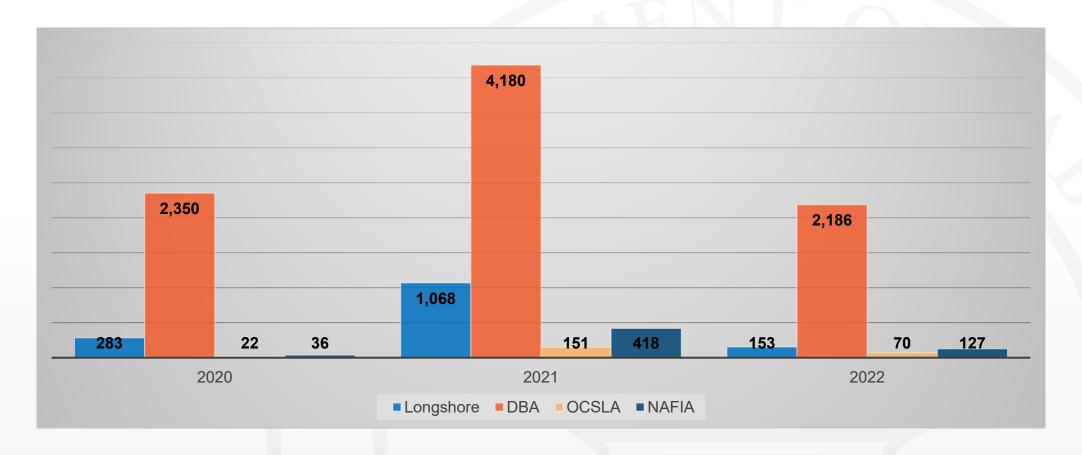


## Trends – Claims Reported FY2017 – FY2021 Occupational Disease





## Trends – Claims Reported FY2020 – FY2022 (through 3/11/2022) COVID





## **Industry Performance**

1<sup>st</sup> Report of Injury within 20 days
1<sup>st</sup> Report of Payment within 28 days\*

Measure	FY21 Target	FY21 Result
1st Report of Injury within 20 days (DBA)	88%	94%
1st Report of Injury within 20 days (Non-DBA)	88%	91%



## **FY21 Longshore Performance**

Measure	FY21 Target	FY21 Result
Adjudication		
Complete action on request for Intervention within 15 days	85%	83%
Conference held within 45 days	90%	99%
Conference memorandum issued within 10 days	92%	92%
Recommendation for Intervention issued within 90 days (if no conference held)	85%	91%
Settlement applications processed within 18 days	90%	98%
Stipulation applications processed within 30 days	85%	89%
Second Injury Fund requests processed within 45 days	85%	90%
Attorney Fees agreed upon processed within 15 days	85%	98%
Attorney Fees not agreed upon processed within 120 days	85%	85%
Referrals to the OALJ processed within 21 days	90%	99%

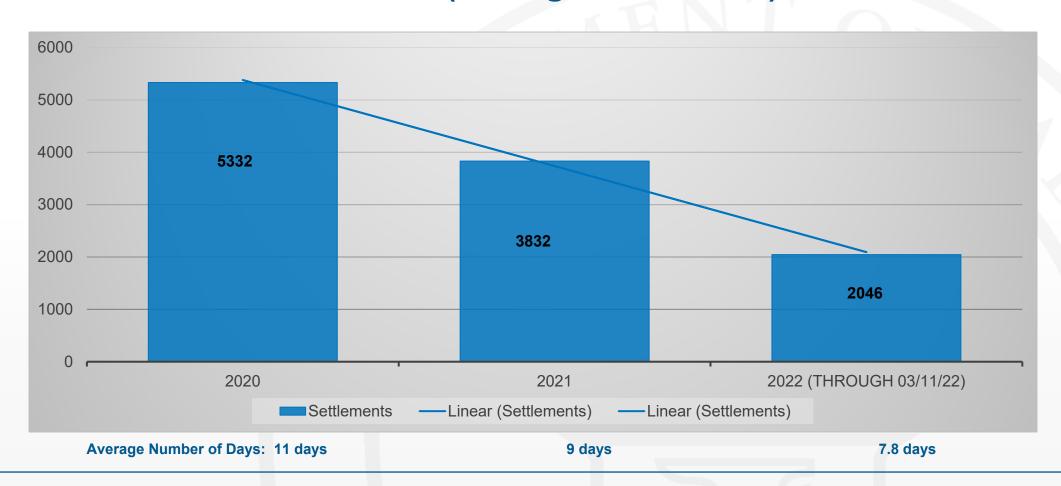


## **FY21 Longshore Quality Performance**

Measure	FY21 Target	FY21 Result
Informal Conference actions sampled for quality are rated as correct	89%	89%
Settlement actions sampled for quality are rated as correct	90%	94%
Second Injury Fund Application actions sampled for quality are rated as correct	85%	86%
Second Injury Fund payments sampled for quality are rated as correct	95%	95%

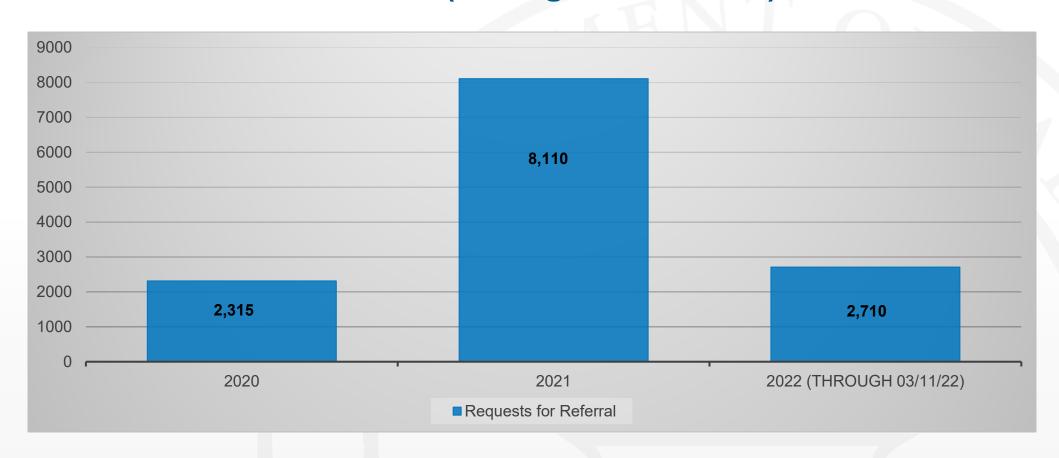


## **Settlements** FY2020/FY2021/FY2022 (through 03/11/2022)



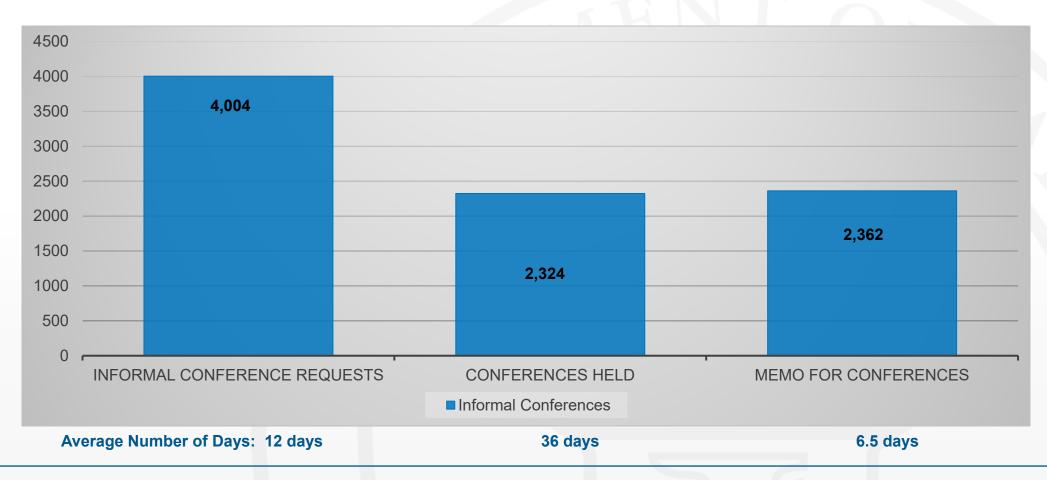


## Requests for Referral to OALJ FY2020/FY2021/FY2022 (through 03/11/2022)



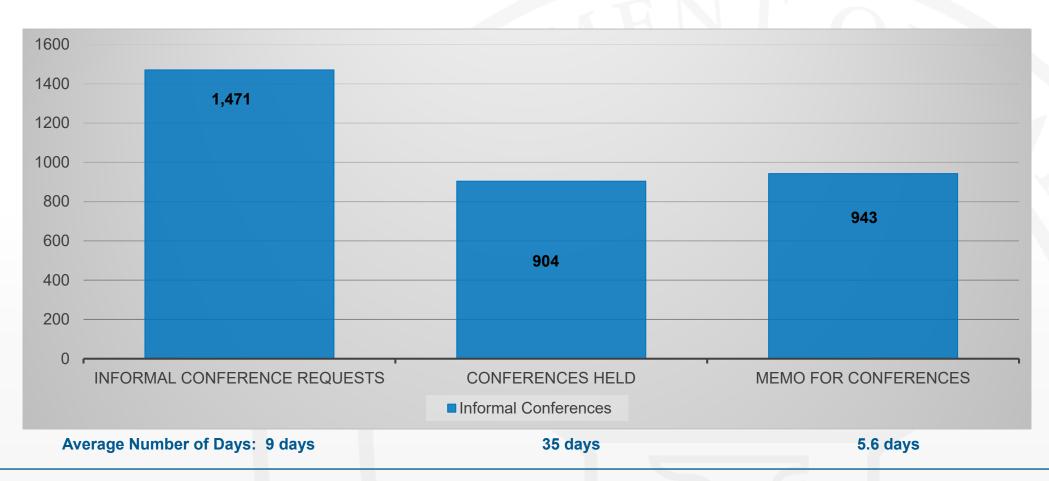


## **Informal Conferences** FY2021





## **Informal Conferences** FY2022 (through 03/11/2022)





### **Longshore Performance**

#### FY22 Program Increased Focus on Quality

- Introduced monthly workbooks to monitor and evaluate quality of work performed.
- Established weighted performance management plans with 60% quality weight overall.



## **Industry Notices**

- No-189 (2022 Penalty Inflation Notice)
- No-188 (2022 Advance Assessments for the Special Fund and Submission of form LS-513)
- No-187 (Defense Base Act (DBA) Waivers)
- No-186 (Employees' Compensation and Management Portal (ECOMP))
- No-185 (NAWW Maximum and Minimum Rates Adjustments FY22)
- No-184 (2021 Final Assessment for the Special Fund)



# New Penalty Amounts after January 15, 2022

- Section 14(g) of the LHWCA, 20 C.F.R. § 702.236: Failure to Report Termination of Payments - increased from \$301 to \$320
- •
- Section 30(e) of the LHWCA, 20 C.F.R. § 702.204: Penalty for Late Report of Injury or Death - increased from \$24,730 to \$26,269
- Section 49 of the LHWCA, 20 C.F.R. § 702.271(a)(2): Discrimination

  Against Employees Who Bring Proceedings increased from a \$2,473 minimum and \$12,363 maximum to a \$2,627 minimum and a \$13,132 maximum.



### **Communications**

**Central Mail Receipt** 

U. S. Department of Labor Office of Workers' Compensation Programs Division of Longshore and Harbor Workers' Compensation 400 West Bay Street, Suite 63A, Box 28 Jacksonville, FL 32202

Case Create Documents only: FAX (202) 513-6814

SEAPortal: <a href="https://seaportal.dol.gov/portal/">https://seaportal.dol.gov/portal/</a>

Telephone Number for all offices: (202) 513-6809

Preferred method of submission

**ECOMP Longshore page for Claimants:** <u>https://dlhwc.dol.gov/</u>

ECOMP Longshore page for Entities: <a href="https://owcp.industrypartners.dol.gov/#/">https://owcp.industrypartners.dol.gov/#/</a>



## Marco Adame, **District Director** Western District Office

Division of Federal Employees', Longshore and Harbor Workers' Compensation (DFELHWC)



## **Did you say new Claims Examiners?**

- 12 New Claims Examiners
  - 7 CEs assigned to the Eastern DO
  - 3 CEs assigned to the Southern DO
  - 2 CEs assigned to the Western DO



## **Training Plan**

- 11 weeks of robust training, consisting of:
  - ABC's of the Longshore Act (definitions, coverage, presumptions, extensions)
  - Forms and Filing Requirements
  - AWW and Compensation Rates
  - Interventions, Conferences, and ALJ Referrals
  - Settlements, Stipulations, and Service Waivers
  - Medical Benefits, Special Fund, Death Benefits, Hearing Loss, Attorney Fees and other topics.



## **Training Plan**

- No more District Office only training
- Each District Office takes part in training new Claims Examiners, embracing a uniform training approach
- New Claims Examiners are now being exposed to issues from across the country
- New Claims Examiners have an opportunity to be trained by peers across the country
- With training from peers and District Directors, they have access to over 100 years of industry knowledge



### <u>Training Plan – Longshore Resources</u>

- In addition to the training plan, we have our E-learning training resource
- E-learning includes modules on:
  - DBA training
  - OWCS training
  - Informal conference training
  - Adjudication
  - Payments and entitlements
  - And other topics

These resources are available for all CEs.



## David Duhon, District Director Southern District Office

Division of Federal Employees', Longshore and Harbor Workers' Compensation (DFELHWC)



### **OWCP Longshore Outreach**

Challenge: With the reorganization and reliance on remote work, how does the Program maintain connection to stakeholders and do outreach in the various geographic and work areas?

Benefits of outreach: smoother benefit delivery, stakeholder engagement, better information dissemination, prevention of unintended consequences (ex: potentially uninsured maritime employers)

Potential impediments: remote assignments, technology challenges, need to reinvent what local access looks like as we move forward



### **Outreach Areas**

Large events – at these we can maximize availability and exposure by speaking at an event attended widely; outreach impact: HIGH

- ALC in New Orleans (March 2022)
- DOL/Loyola Symposium in San Francisco (September of 2022)
- Florida Workers Compensation Institute Conference (December 2021)
- Signal Mutual annual conference, WILG conference, etc.

Interested in finding other events we can attend to improve Program reach

"Local" outreach projects – these are projects co-located with either the sub-office or the DD, are formal, and are designed to address certain needs or challenges for the Program; outreach impact: HIGH

• Ex: Norfolk DD and NAFI zoom outreach, Long Beach NASCO, Guam – Tokio Marine zoom training, Pacific NW – various work with maritime construction groups reinsurance reqs

99



### **Outreach Areas**

"Incidental" outreach – Outreach performed routinely by DDs/CEs, which we will track to ensure we emphasize areas that have positive impact; outreach impact: MEDIUM

- ALJ meetings
- Calls from stakeholders which request information, help, advice from experts on Longshore matters

"Local" less formal outreach; outreach impact: MEDIUM

Goal of outreach: Continued connection and improvement of service delivery to stakeholders; enhanced staff morale; enhanced engagement with customers



## Questions?