

a brace on his right knee due to a prior injury. OWCP assigned this claim OWCP File No. xxxxxx250.

OWCP subsequently received a June 17, 2024 witness statement wherein T.B., an employing establishment supervisor, asserted that he observed appellant limping that day after a reported motor vehicle accident.

In a statement dated September 25, 2024, the employing establishment controverted the claim, contending that appellant had previously filed an occupational disease claim for a May 18, 2023 right knee injury.

OWCP subsequently received statements dated September 13 and 20, 2024 wherein B.S., an employing establishment supervisor, asserted that appellant reported lower extremity symptoms while in the performance of duty on September 13 and 20, 2024.

By decision dated February 19, 2025, OWCP denied the claim, finding that the evidence was insufficient to establish a causal relationship between appellant's diagnosed conditions and the accepted employment factors.

On March 6, 2025 appellant, through counsel, requested an oral hearing before a representative of OWCP's Branch of Hearings and Review, held August 6, 2025. At the hearing, OWCP's hearing representative recounted that in addition to the traumatic injury claim under OWCP File No. xxxxxx250, appellant filed an occupational disease claim (Form CA-2) on September 21, 2024 for slight swelling of the right knee, assigned OWCP File No. xxxxxx257. Appellant also filed a second traumatic injury claim on October 11, 2024, assigned OWCP File No. xxxxxx294, alleging a possible meniscal tear, and aggravation of preexisting osteoarthritis of the right knee causally related to an August 11, 2024 employment incident.

By decision dated October 24, 2025, OWCP's hearing representative affirmed the February 19, 2025 OWCP decision. The hearing representative directed that OWCP administratively combine appellant's three claims regarding the right knee under OWCP File Nos. xxxxxx250, 257, and xxxxxx294.

The Board, having duly considered this matter, finds that the case is not in posture for decision.

OWCP's procedures provide that cases should be administratively combined where a new injury case is reported for an employee who filed another injury claim for the same part of the body and where correct adjudication depends on cross-referencing between files.³ This allows

³ Federal (FECA) Procedure Manual, Part 2 -- Claims, *File Maintenance and Management*, Chapter 2.400.8c (February 2000). *Order Remanding Case, V.A. (P.A.)*, Docket No. 25-0736 (issued January 29, 2026); *Order Remanding Case, V.G.*, Docket No. 19-0670 (issued April 30, 2020); *Order Remanding Case, L.P.*, Docket Nos. 18-1558, & 18-1568 (issued June 21, 2019); *Order Remanding Case, L.S.*, Docket Nos. 17-1863, 17-1867, & 17-1868 (issued April 18, 2018); *Order Remanding Case, W.S.*, Docket No. 15-0969 (issued October 5, 2015).

OWCP to consider all relevant claim files in developing a given claim.⁴ Appellant's claims under OWCP File Nos. xxxxxx257 and xxxxxx294 also involve the right knee, and should therefore be administratively combined with the present claim for a full and fair adjudication.⁵ This will allow OWCP to consider all relevant reports and accompanying evidence in developing appellant's claim.⁶

The case shall, therefore, be remanded for OWCP to administratively combine OWCP File Nos. xxxxxx257 and xxxxxx294 with the present claim, OWCP File No. xxxxxx250. Following this and other such further development as deemed necessary, OWCP shall issue a *de novo* decision. Accordingly,

IT IS HEREBY ORDERED THAT the October 24, 2025 decision of the Office of Workers' Compensation Programs is set aside, and the case is remanded for further proceedings consistent with this order of the Board.

Issued: March 26, 2026
Washington, DC

Alec J. Koromilas, Chief Judge
Employees' Compensation Appeals Board

Janice B. Askin, Judge
Employees' Compensation Appeals Board

Valerie D. Evans-Harrell, Alternate Judge
Employees' Compensation Appeals Board

⁴ *Id.*

⁵ See *Order Remanding Case, S.B.*, Docket No. 25-0797 (issued November 26, 2025); *Order Remanding Case, M.K.*, Docket No. 25-0184 (issued February 18, 2025); *Order Remanding Case, J.L.*, Docket No. 24-0785 (issued November 1, 2024); *Order Remanding Case, M.T.*, Docket No. 24-0753 (issued September 23, 2024); *Order Remanding Case, K.W.*, Docket No. 22-1258 (issued March 14, 2023).

⁶ *Id.* See also *Order Remanding Case, K.G.*, Docket No. 21-0068 (issued July 29, 2022); *Order Remanding Case, D.J.*, Docket No. 20-0997 (issued November 20, 2020).