

1 Workers' Compensation Full Board Meeting Minutes

2 **Date:** Tuesday, March 17, 2026

3 **Location:** 328 State St., Schenectady, NY
4 Room 324
5 Webcast Live

6 **Time:** 10:00 a.m.

7 **MEMBERS OF THE BOARD**

8 Freida Foster, Chair
9 Renee Delgado, Esq., Vice Chair
10 Mark Higgins
11 Samuel Williams
12 Steven A. Crain, Esq.
13 Clarissa Rodriguez, Esq.
14 Pamela Caggianelli
15 Martin M. Dilan
16 Gloribelle Perez, Esq.
17 Bob Bergin, Esq.
18 Peter DeJesus, Jr.
19 Maria Matos, Esq.
20 Gina Sillitti

21 **SECRETARY TO THE BOARD**

22 Laura Inglis

23 **DEPUTY GENERAL COUNSEL**

24 Keith Longden, Esq.

ASSOCIATE ATTORNEY

Heather Justice, Esq.

1 FREIDA FOSTER: Good morning, and welcome
2 everyone. Thank you for joining us. I'm Freida
3 Foster, Chair of the New York State Workers'
4 Compensation Board. Today's Full Board meeting is
5 being webcast live for members of the public, and we
6 are joined by the American Sign Language Interpreter,
7 as well, we are in closed caption.

8 I now have the honor of calling the 1052nd
9 meeting of the Full Board to order. Madam Secretary,
10 roll call, please.

11 LAURA INGLIS: Vice Chair Delgado.

12 RENEE DELGADO: Here.

13 LAURA INGLIS: Board Member Higgins.

14 MARK HIGGINS: Here.

15 LAURA INGLIS: Board Member Williams.

16 SAMUEL WILLIAMS: Here.

17 LAURA INGLIS: Board Member Crain.

18 STEVEN CRAIN: Here.

19 LAURA INGLIS: Board Member Rodriguez.

20 CLARISSA RODRIGUEZ: Here.

21 LAURA INGLIS: Board Member Caggianelli.

22 PAMELA CAGGIANELLI: Here.

23 LAURA INGLIS: Board Member Dilan.

24 MARTIN DILAN: Here.

1 LAURA INGLIS: Board Member Perez.
2 GLORIBELLE PEREZ: Here.
3 LAURA INGLIS: Board Member Bergan.
4 BOB BERGIN: Here.
5 LAURA INGLIS: Board Member DeJesus, Jr.
6 PETER DEJESUS, JR.: Here.
7 LAURA INGLIS: Board Member Matos.
8 MARIA MATOS: Here.
9 LAURA INGLIS: Board Member Sillitti.
10 GINA SILLITTI: Here.
11 LAURA INGLIS: Madam Chair, we have a Full
12 Board today.
13 FREIDA FOSTER: Wonderful. Thank you very
14 much. Agenda Item 1, you've all received a copy of
15 the February 10, 2026 meeting minutes for review. Are
16 there any questions or need for discussion? Is there
17 a motion to approve the Board meeting minutes?
18 MARTIN DILAN: I move to accept --
19 FREIDA FOSTER: Thank you --
20 MARTIN DILAN: -- Board Member Dilan.
21 FREIDA FOSTER: Thank you, Board Member
22 Dilan. Is there a second?
23 MARK HIGGINS: Second.
24 FREIDA FOSTER: Thank you, Board Member

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Higgins. Any opposition? All those in favor?

ALL: Aye.

FREIDA FOSTER: Any opposed? I am also a yes, that motion is passed. Agenda Item 2, Deputy General Counsel Longden will present the OGC's Departmental Report for February 2026. Good morning.

KEITH LONGDEN: Thank you very much, Chair Foster, Members of the Board. Following is a statistical analysis for the month of February 2026 for the three divisions within the Office of General Counsel responsible for deciding cases. During that time, the Board Adjudication Division, held 16,165 hearings, resolved 10,554 cases at hearings, and issued 314 Reserve Decisions. Also held 1,250 Pre-Hearing Conferences, and finalized 1,768 Section 32 Waiver Agreements.

During that time, the Administrative Review Division received 761 applications, processed 923 applications, for an end-of-month inventory of 7,729 cases pending.

And finally, Legal Affairs Division during the month of February received 71 applications for Full Board Review, processed 101 applications, for an end-of-month inventory of 228 cases. And that

1 concludes my report.

2 FREIDA FOSTER: Thank you very much. Are
3 there any questions or any need for discussion? May I
4 have a motion to accept the Office of General
5 Counsel's Departmental Report?

6 PAMELA CAGGIANELLI: Madam Chair, this is
7 Board Member Caggianelli, and I move that we accept
8 the Office of General Counsel's Departmental Report.

9 FREIDA FOSTER: Thank you, Board Member
10 Caggianelli. Is there a second?

11 CLARISSA RODRIGUEZ: Yes, Madam Chair, I
12 second that motion.

13 FREIDA FOSTER: Thank you, Board Member
14 Rodriguez. Any opposition? All those in favor?

15 ALL: Aye.

16 FREIDA FOSTER: Any opposed? I'm also a
17 yes, that motion is passed. Agenda Item 3, Associate
18 Attorney Heather Justice will now present Licensing
19 Applications. Good morning.

20 HEATHER JUSTICE: Good morning. Good
21 morning, Madam Chair, Madam Vice Chair, Board Members.
22 You have before you the recommendations from the
23 Assigned Board Panel regarding the Licensing
24 Applications listed in Part 3 of today's agenda.

1 These are all three-year renewals. Under
2 Section 24-a, Stacie L. Blasko and Andrew Mannix.
3 Under Section 50(3-b), Amalgamated Employee Benefits
4 Administrators, the QO is Paul Holstein; and New York
5 Life Group Insurance Company, the QO is Kevin
6 Horbatiuk.

7 Under Section 50(3-d), Allianz Reinsurance
8 America Inc./Allianz Resolution Management Services,
9 Lisa Tortora, QO, three-year renewal. I present these
10 recommendations to the Board for your consideration.

11 FREIDA FOSTER: Thank you very much. Are
12 there any questions or any need for discussion? May I
13 have a motion to accept the recommendations of the
14 Panels as presented?

15 (Simultaneous crosstalk.)

16 UNIDENTIFIED FEMALE SPEAKER: Madam Chair --

17 MARIA MATOS: Madam Chair -- sorry. Madam
18 Chair, Board Member Matos, I so move.

19 FREIDA FOSTER: Thank you, Board Member
20 Matos. Is there a second?

21 PAMELA CAGGIANELLI: I second that motion.

22 FREIDA FOSTER: Thank you, Board Member
23 Caggianelli. Thank you. Any opposition? Hearing
24 none, all in favor?

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ALL: Aye.

FREIDA FOSTER: Any opposed? I am also a yes, that motion is passed. Agenda Item 4, you're back again. We'll now present the recommendations concerning the decisions for the Appellate Division.

KEITH LONGDEN: Thank you very much, Chair Foster, Members of the Board. On this month's agenda there are ten decisions of the Appellate Division Third Department. The Board Panel Decisions which are listed in bullets 4A through 4J on your agenda, it's the recommendation of the Office of General Counsel that all ten decisions be adopted as the decisions of the Full Board.

MARK HIGGINS: Yes, Madam Chair, I'm Board Member Mark Higgins, I move to accept the report. I want to take particular mention on 4C of the agenda. The reason I say that is because this case, to me, symbolizes an affirmation of the Board's entire approach to the COVID-19 crisis. And I'm proud to be a member of this Board because of their approach that we took and we've been affirmed time after time in this particular case, for the family of Rosemary Hogan, who lost her husband, and her children lost their father in a COVID-19 case. It's particularly

1 poignant that today, on St. Patrick's Day, that we
2 send greetings to the Hogan family from this Board.
3 It, right from the entry of the case through ARD, who
4 made a strong recommendation to the Panel, which
5 included Board Members Williams and Crane and Former
6 Board Member Hull, and went right through the courts
7 and we have been affirmed. So I'm very proud of it.
8 I think it should be noted. And I do make the motion
9 to accept the recommendation of General Counsel.

10 FREIDA FOSTER: Thank you, Board Member
11 Higgins, and thank you for your comments. Do we have
12 a second?

13 GLORIBELLE PEREZ: I second.

14 FREIDA FOSTER: Thank you, Board Member
15 Perez. Thank you. All right, any opposition? All
16 those in favor?

17 ALL: Aye.

18 FREIDA FOSTER: Any opposed? I'm also a
19 yes, that motion is passed. Agenda Item 5, Mandatory
20 Full Board Review. We have one case on the agenda,
21 case number G3045110, Southeast Towers. Is there a
22 motion with respect to 5A on the agenda?

23 PETER DEJESUS, JR.: Madam Chair, Board
24 Member De Jesus, I make a motion that we accept the

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unanimous Board Panel decision.

FREIDA FOSTER: Thank you, Board Member De Jesus. Is there a second?

BOB BERGIN: Board Member Bergan seconds that.

FREIDA FOSTER: Thank you, Board Member Bergan. Does anyone need to be recused from this case? Okay, may I have a motion, or yes, all those in favor?

ALL: Aye.

FREIDA FOSTER: Any opposed? I'm also a yes, that motion is passed. Agenda item 6, Discretionary Full Board Review. For this portion I turn the agenda over to Vice Chair Delgado. Good morning.

RENEE DELGADO: Good morning, thank you, Madam Chair. For the cases listed in Item 6 on your agenda, it has been recommended that Full Board Review be granted. Those cases are, 6A, G2099173, also pertains to G0272840, Matter of the Mary Imogene Bassett Hospital; 6B, G3671296, Matter of London Trucking Inc.; 6C, G3676984, Matter of Consigli Construction Company Inc.; 6D, G3605173, *Matter of New York City Transit Authority*; 6E, G3158496, Matter of

1 the Fast Track Car Service of Long Island Inc.; 6F,
2 59300818, Matter of the New York State Department of
3 Corrections. I move to refer the cases back to their
4 respective Panels for further consideration.

5 FREIDA FOSTER: Thank you, Vice Chair
6 Delgado. Is there a second?

7 SAMUEL WILLIAMS: Madam Chair, Board Member
8 Williams, I second that motion.

9 FREIDA FOSTER: Thank you, Board Member
10 Williams. Is there anyone that needs to be recused
11 from this case? Hearing none, all those in favor?

12 ALL: Aye.

13 FREIDA FOSTER: Any opposed? I'm also a
14 yes, that motion is passed. Any other business?
15 Hearing none, may I have a motion to adjourn the
16 meeting?

17 PAMELA CAGGIANELLI: Madam Chair, this is
18 Board Member Caggianelli, and I make that motion to
19 adjourn.

20 FREIDA FOSTER: Thank you, Board Member
21 Caggianelli. Thank you, Board Member Dilan. That's
22 it, meeting adjourned.

23

24 (Whereupon, meeting was adjourned.)