



SEP 30 2013

File Number:

**MEMORANDUM FOR LONGSHORE AND HARBOR WORKERS' COMPENSATION
ACT STAKEHOLDERS**

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Gary A. Steinberg", is written over the printed name.

FROM: GARY A. STEINBERG
Acting Director, Office of Workers' Compensation Programs

SUBJECT: New Leadership

Over the past six months the Office of Workers' Compensation Program's (OWCP) Division of Longshore and Harbor Workers' Compensation (DLHWC) has gone through several significant changes in leadership. In March, Ms. Miranda Chiu, the DLHWC Director, retired after 20 years of government service and 16 years in private industry. Miranda's passion for and experience in the field resulted in her many outstanding accomplishments in strengthening the program and enhancing relationships with federal agencies, employers and the insurance industry. In addition to Miranda's departure, DLHWC also lost its two branch chiefs, Mr. Eric Richardson and Mr. Brandon Miller. Both Eric and Brandon were strong advocates for the program, and made a number of significant contributions during their time with OWCP.

Fortunately, we have been able to assemble an outstanding new leadership team for the Longshore Program which has hit the ground running. On September 23, Mr. Antonio Rios was selected as the new DLHWC Director. Tony has been a member of the OWCP family for over 19 years. Since beginning his DOL career as a Claims Examiner in the Division of Federal Employees' Compensation (DFEC), he has served in a variety of roles including Hearing Representative, Assistant Chief of Hearings and Review, Special Assistant to the DFEC Director, Deputy Director for DFEC, and since March, as the Acting Director of DLHWC.

Tony brings a wealth of experience in policy and procedure development and implementation, business process reengineering, and computer-based learning systems. He has also conceptualized and planned new information technology solutions for improved program administration, and has directed the operation and maintenance of several multi-million dollar IT systems designed to support claims management, electronic filing of claims and payment of over \$3 billion annually in program benefits. Tony received his Master's degree in Public Administration from American University and his Bachelor in Business Administration from Strayer University. He also was nominated in 2012 by the Deputy Secretary of Labor to represent the U. S. Department of Labor at the Army War College, and in 2013, was selected by the U.S. Department of Agriculture to participate in its 18-month Senior Executive Service Candidate Development Program.

Joining Tony is Mr. Richard Stanton, Chief of the Financial Management, Insurance and Assessment Branch, and Ms. Jennifer Valdivieso, Chief of the Policy, Regulations and Procedures Branch. Rich joined OWCP this past March after a very successful career in industry. In his role as branch chief, he is responsible for monitoring the activities of the insurance carriers and self-insured employers for compliance with the Longshore and Harbor Workers' Compensation Act (LHWCA) and its extensions. Prior to joining OWCP, he was the Vice President of Risk Management for Maher Terminals, LLC, one of the world's largest multi-user container terminal operators. He has extensive experience designing claims management systems as well as implementing and managing an innovative risk management program. Rich also was an attorney in private practice litigating LHWCA, Jones Act and Product Liability claims. He received a Bachelor of Arts degree from the State University of New York at Stony Brook and a Juris Doctor degree from New York Law School.

Jennifer joined the DLHWC in July. She is responsible for the program's policies and procedures, business processes, and employee development. Jennifer began her federal career in 1992 as a Claims Examiner with the FECA program. Jennifer then served as a Senior Claims Examiner, a Supervisor and the Assistant District Director for Jacksonville, Florida, the largest DFEC office. In 2009, she became the DFEC Branch Chief for the Branch of Policy, Regulations and Procedures. She developed and implemented regulatory and procedural changes including a substantial revision of the procedure manual, release of a complete curriculum of computer-based training modules and the creation of DFEC's first computer-based employee skills assessment platform. Jennifer received her Bachelor of Arts degree from Emory University.

The new DLHWC team is building on the program's strengths to enhance the quality of service delivery and oversight. A major priority is to create and manage all cases in an entirely electronic environment. To improve the accuracy, timeliness and quality of benefits, DLHWC plans to reengineer a number of its business processes to enhance and streamline communications with its stakeholders. Initiatives on the horizon include providing a secure web portal for stakeholders to electronically upload case documents to promote a more expeditious exchange of information, and developing an electronic platform for the submission of information required for calculation of the annual insurance assessment. In addition, the DLHWC leadership team, both in Washington, DC and the district offices, will continue to work on strengthening relationships with the federal agencies, self-insured employers, and insurance carriers.

I welcome the new leadership team. Tony, Rich and Jennifer have my complete confidence, and I know they will take the program to the next level. And I thank you, our federal and industry partners, for your hard work and commitment to the Longshore and Harbor Workers' Compensation Program.

Please welcome the new DLHWC leadership team.