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 **Virginia Workers’ Compensation Commission Releases**

**2017 Annual Report**

**[Richmond, VA]-** Today, the Virginia Workers’ Compensation Commission (VWC) released its *2017 Annual Report*. The report provides a summary of key initiatives, trends, and outcomes for the Commonwealth’s workers’ compensation system and other programs administered by the Commission. The interactive annual report can be viewed by clicking [here](https://user-ugincja.cld.bz/2017VWCAnnualReport). The .pdf version can be downloaded [here](http://www.workcomp.virginia.gov/annual-reports/vwc-annual-report-2017). Additionally, a highlights video can be seen [here](https://youtu.be/XJDLbGp3hsg).

“In 2017 we processed 58,094 electronic claims and issued 4,186 hearing-level and 790 appellate decisions,” said VWC’s Chairman, R. Ferrell Newman. “The Alternative Dispute Resolution team experienced an 80% growth in ADR cases since 2016 resulting in the addition of five (5) new certified mediators. In 2017, the Commission effectively evaluated VWC office sites resulting in the relocation of the Manassas, Virginia Beach, and Richmond Headquarters offices. As a result, the Commission now offers dedicated mediation spaces and additional attorney conference rooms. These relocations also allow for enhanced security measures consistent with VWC’s statewide initiative in all offices.”

**Key highlights noted in the *2017 Annual Report* include:**

* Approved and finalized plan to implement a medical fee schedule;
* Enhanced technology to offer automated trainings and webinars statewide;
* Evaluation of office spaces across the Commonwealth;
* Record attendance at the Commission’s annual educational conference;
* Recognition of agency employees participating on boards of national and international organizations; and
* Successful compliance with the Virginia Information Technologies Agency’s (VITA) information security standards.

The report also features the financial results of the agency and the Virginia Victims Fund (officially the Criminal Injuries Compensation Fund) for Fiscal Year 2017, as well as a look ahead to its 2018 initiatives.

About The Commission

The Virginia Workers’ Compensation Commission (VWC), established in 1918, is an independent judicial and administrative state agency that oversees the workers’ compensation system for employees, employers, and insurers. VWC interprets and applies the Virginia Workers’ Compensation Act and resolves claims through hearings and mediation. A 2016 Oregon study ranked Virginia as the fifth-lowest cost system in the nation. Leading the way in electronic data and claims filing systems, in 2017 VWC processed over 58,000 claims and issued over 4,900 judicial opinions. VWC also administers the Criminal Injuries Compensation Fund, the Uninsured Employer’s Fund, and adjudicates claims under the Virginia Birth-Related Neurological Injury Compensation Program. Headquartered in Richmond, Virginia, VWC operates regional offices in Bristol, Virginia Beach, Roanoke, Harrisonburg, Manassas, and Fairfax.

For more information about the VWC, visit [www.workcomp.virginia.gov](http://www.workcomp.virginia.gov). For more information about this topic, or to schedule an interview, please call Charles Steepleton at 1-877-664-2566 or email questions@workcomp.virginia.gov.

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