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Contact: Evelyn McGill  
Phone: 1-877-664-2566  
Email: [questions@workcomp.virginia.gov](mailto:questions@workcomp.virginia.gov)

## Virginia Workers' Compensation Commission

### Commissioner Robert A. Rapaport Inducted as a Fellow Into The College of Workers' Compensation Lawyers in the Class of 2019



**[Richmond VA]** On March 16<sup>th</sup>, Commissioner Robert A. Rapaport was inducted as a Fellow of the College of Workers' Compensation Lawyers at its annual meeting in Coral Gables, Florida. Rapaport joins the Commission's previous College inductees Chairman R. Ferrell Newman, Commissioner Wesley G. Marshall, the late Commissioner Roger L. Williams, Chief Deputy Commissioner James J. Szablewicz, Deputy Commissioners D. Edward Wise, Jr. and Deborah Wood Blevins.

The College of Workers' Compensation Lawyers honors attorneys who have distinguished themselves in their practice in the field of workers' compensation. Members have been nominated for the outstanding traits they have developed in their practice of twenty years or longer, representing plaintiffs, defendants, serving as judges, or acting for the benefit of all in education, overseeing agencies and developing legislation. Rapaport's induction into the College of Workers' Compensation Lawyers is an honor for him as a member of the workers' compensation judiciary, and reflects very favorably on the Virginia Workers' Compensation Commission, particularly given that all current Commissioners and several Deputy Commissioners, are Fellows. "Joining such a prestigious and talented group of my workers' compensation colleagues as a Fellow into the College is a very humbling experience; I am honored to become a part of such a prestigious group of judges and professionals," said Rapaport.

Commissioner Rapaport is a 1976 graduate of the Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University and earned his Juris Doctor degree in 1979 from the Marshall Wythe School of Law at the College of William and Mary. Rapaport was in private practice for 35 years with a heavy concentration in workers' compensation. He was appointed to the Commission in February 2017, by the Virginia General Assembly.

Individuals inducted into the College of Workers' Compensation Lawyers have proven to their peers, the bar, bench and public that they possess the highest professional qualifications and ethical standards, character, integrity, professional expertise and leadership. They have a commitment to fostering and furthering the objectives of the College and have shown significant evidence of scholarship, teaching, lecturing, and/or distinguished published writings on Workers' Compensation or related fields of law.

#### **All Fellows take the following Oath:**

"By accepting your Fellowship in the College you commit yourself to life long dedication to the maintenance of the highest standards of professional conduct, and scholarly pursuits; absolute integrity with clients, opponents, colleagues and the

bench; to excellence in the presentation of law and fact designed to produce to the trier of fact and the decider of law the most reasoned of result; and to a demeanor which manifests respect for the legal process and its participants."

### **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 2018 Oregon study ranked Virginia as the tenth-lowest cost system in the nation. Leading the way in electronic data and claims filing systems, in 2018 VWC processed over 46,000 claims and issued over 4,000 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.

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For more information about the Virginia Workers Compensation Commission, 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](mailto:questions@workcomp.virginia.gov).