

State of South Carolina

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Workers' Compensation Commission

August 24, 2009

Commission Outsources Legal Services

As a result of the reductions in the Commission's state appropriations the agency implemented a Reduction in Force (RIF) plan for the FY2009-10. The RIF plan called for the elimination of the in-house legal department and contracting the services with outside legal counsel, resulting in an annual savings of over \$100,000.

Effective August 24th Attorney Kelly Golden will begin assisting the Commission on a contractual basis, subject to renewal, for a period of six months. The preparation of *pro se* single Commissioner Orders, prosecution of noncompliant employers and issuing of subpoenas are areas in which Mrs. Golden's expertise and counsel will be utilized. In addition, she will counsel the Commission on pending and proposed regulations and statutes and provide legal advice to the Executive Director, Commissioners, Department Directors and other Commission employees.

Ms. Golden is a graduate of the College of Charleston and the University of South Carolina School of Law. She is a member of the South Carolina Bar and is in good standing with the United States District Court, the United States District Court, District of South Carolina; United States Court of Appeals, Fourth Circuit; The United States Bankruptcy Court; and the Supreme Court of the United States of America. Her previous experience includes serving as County Attorney for Beaufort County, Staff Attorney for the SC Association of Counties, General Counsel for the SC Ethics Commission and the first in-house General Counsel for the SC Workers' Compensation Commission. She also has several years of experience in private practice. The Commission welcomes Ms. Golden and looks forward to working with her.