



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
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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**

### **The Honorable Deborah Wood Blevins to be Honored as an Influential Women of Law by Virginia Lawyer's Weekly**



**[Richmond, VA]**- On February 18, 2020, Deputy Commissioner Deborah Wood Blevins will be honored during the Virginia Lawyer's Weekly's second annual event honoring Virginia's top female attorneys and judges. Hosted in collaboration with statewide bar groups, Deputy Commissioner Blevins is one of thirty-four (34) honorees who will be recognized at The John Marshall in Richmond, Virginia to celebrate their commitment to their profession and dedication to the communities they serve. Blevins will join forty-three (43) honorees from the inaugural class of 2019. This recognition speaks highly of Deputy Commissioner Blevins and recognizes her commitment to Virginia's workers' compensation system and the Commission's nationally recognized Alternative Dispute Resolution program, which she led in its development.

Deputy Commissioner Blevins is a 1980 graduate from Swarthmore College and earned her Juris Doctor degree in 1983 from the University Of Virginia School Of Law. Prior to joining the Commission, Blevins was a partner in Gilmer, Sadler, Ingram, Sutherland, & Hutton, LLP in Pulaski, Virginia. Blevins is the Managing Deputy Commissioner of the Virginia Workers' Compensation Commission's Alternative Dispute Resolution Department and was hired by the Commission in 2004. She currently serves as the Chair of the Dispute Resolution Committee for the International Association of Industrial Accident Boards and Commissions. Additionally, Blevins serves as the Chair of the Special Committee to Study Appellate Mediation in Virginia. In 2018, she was also inducted as a Fellow of the College of Workers' Compensation Lawyers.

#### **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 2019 VWC processed over 41,000 claims and issued over 3,700 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).