



State of New Mexico
WORKERS' COMPENSATION ADMINISTRATION

MICHELLE LUJAN GRISHAM
GOVERNOR

VERILY A. JONES
ACTING DIRECTOR

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
FOR MORE INFORMATION, CONTACT: Diana Sandoval-Tapia, 505-841-6052

Workers' Compensation Judge Leonard Padilla Reappointed

Albuquerque, N.M., August 23, 2019 – New Mexico Workers' Compensation Administration (WCA) Acting Director Verily A. Jones announced the reappointment of Leonard J. Padilla to serve a second, five-year term as a workers' compensation judge for the WCA. Workers' compensation judges hear and decide disputes over benefits due to injured workers.

By law, workers' compensation judges are appointed for an initial one-year term, which may then be followed by subsequent five-year appointments. Padilla was initially appointed to a one-year term, which began Aug. 31, 2013.

"I am grateful for this opportunity to serve the state of New Mexico, this Governor, and the citizens of this place I call home," Padilla said. "I'm also appreciative of the support from the attorneys who practice their profession in my court, and of the support from my colleagues at the WCA. They are dedicated and hard-working and deserve the best efforts I can give them."

Prior to joining the WCA, Padilla served as chief administrative law judge for the New Mexico State Personnel Office, where he worked for nine years. Before that, he worked primarily in private practice, concurrently serving the Seventh Judicial District Court as a

domestic violence special commissioner. Padilla earned his bachelor of science degree in education in 1979 from Eastern New Mexico University, in Portales, N.M., and his juris doctorate degree in 1988 from Southern Methodist University, in Dallas. Padilla has more than 30 years of legal experience, including 21 years of workers' compensation law. He was recognized by the New Mexico Board of Legal Specialization as a workers' compensation law specialist from 1992 to 1997.

In addition to Albuquerque, Padilla has lived and practiced in the New Mexico communities of Carlsbad, Las Cruces, Portales, Questa, Santa Fe and Socorro.