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Workers' Compensation Judge Rachel Bayless Reappointed

Albuquerque, N.M., March 6, 2018 – New Mexico Workers' Compensation Administration (WCA) Director Darin A. Childers announced the reappointment of Rachel A. Bayless to serve a five-year term as a workers' compensation judge, effective April 8, 2018.

By law, workers' compensation judges are appointed for an initial one-year term, which may then be followed by subsequent five-year appointments. Judge Bayless began her initial term on April 8, 2017. Her new term will expire in April 2023.

Bayless first joined the WCA in February 2014 as the agency's General Counsel. As the agency's chief legal advisor, she advised the director on a vast array of legal issues affecting the WCA and the workers' compensation system.

A native New Mexican from Clovis, N.M., Bayless graduated from Eastern New Mexico University in 2001, *summa cum laude*, with a bachelor of business administration degree and minor in political science. She graduated *magna cum laude* from the University of New Mexico School of Law in 2005, where she received clinical honors and was nominated to the Dean's List and Order of the Coif.

Bayless began her legal career as an assistant district attorney with the Second Judicial District Attorney's Office. While serving as an assistant district attorney she prosecuted various

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misdemeanors and crimes against children, including crimes involving sexual and physical abuse. In 2008, Bayless joined the law firm of Madison, Harbour & Mroz, P.A., where she gained experience in the areas of insurance defense, personal injury, and workers' compensation. From 2011 to 2014, she was a staff attorney for The Hartford Insurance where the majority of her cases involved representing employers in workers' compensation matters.