

ADVISORY NO. 368
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TOPIC: COMMISSIONER AND MANAGEMENT CHANGES AT TWCC

Governor Rick Perry has appointed Commissioner **Mike Hachtman** to serve as Chairman of the Texas Workers' Compensation Commission (TWCC). Mr. Hachtman will complete the Chairmanship term of Commissioner Richard Smith, who has served as Chairman since February 2003. Hachtman's term as Chairman will expire February 1, 2005. The Act requires the Governor to appoint a sitting Commissioner for two-year terms as Chairman. That position alternates every February of odd years between employer- and employee-commissioners. Mr. Hachtman's term as a Commissioner began in February 2003 and expires February 2009.

Mike Hachtman is Vice President of Business Development for IFCO Systems North America, Inc., the largest pallet company in the North America. Before joining the private sector, Mr. Hachtman served as Chief of Staff at the Texas Railroad Commission. In 1989, while serving as a staff member in the Texas House, he worked primarily on the drafting and passage of House Bill 1, the Texas Workers' Compensation Reform Act. Mr. Hachtman is a graduate of Texas A&M University.

There has also been a major change of management at the Medical Review Division of the TWCC. **Robert L. "Bob" Shipe** has accepted the position of Director of Medical Review. He will assume his new duties January 16, 2004.

Mr. Shipe has been with the TWCC since 1991. His most recent position was that of the TWCC's Director of Governmental Relations. Prior to that, Mr. Shipe held various positions within the TWCC, including Director of Workers' Compensation Training Education and Development, and Associate Director of Field Operations. In those capacities and others, Mr. Shipe has been a fixture at TWCC public meetings and providing input to the Medical Advisory Committee and the Legislature.

FLAHIVE, OGDEN & LATSON