

Workers' Compensation Benefits - Attorneys

Lisa G. McLean Law Firm of Cunningham & McLean
State Certified Applicant's Attorney Workers' Compensation Specialist

Address: **2820 Camino del Rio South, Suite 211**
San Diego, 92108

Phone: **858-693-8833**

Links to Legal Resources for Workers' Compensation Benefits

State Bar of California

<http://www.calbar.ca.gov/Attorneys/LawyerRegulation>

California Applicants Attorney Association

<https://www.caaa.org/index.cfm?pg=FindaLawyerDirectory>

San Diego Bar Association

<https://www.sdcba.org>

CA Department of Industrial Relations (DIR):

Workers Compensation
<http://www.dir.ca.gov/dwc/>

San Diego Division of Workers' Compensation Information & Assistance Unit

(619) 767-2082
7575 Metropolitan Drive, Suite 202
SAN DIEGO, 92108-4424

Choose carefully. If you hire an attorney and then later want to switch, it may be difficult to find another attorney to take your case. In your first meeting, see how well the attorney and his or her staff communicate with you. Choose one with experience in workers' compensation, preferably one who is certified by the State Bar of California as a workers' compensation specialist.

Q. When do I need an attorney?

A. ASDCE recommends hiring an attorney because the laws and procedures in workers' compensation are complicated. You may need an attorney if you believe your employer or the claims administrator is treating you unfairly or withholding benefits; or you have a permanent disability that limits you or causes pain; or you're not sure how to proceed with your case, and no one else can help.

Q. How can an attorney help me?

A. The job of a workers compensation attorney is to:

- Protect your rights & be your advocate
- Plan a strategy for your case to obtain all the benefits owed to you
- Gather information to support your claim
- Keep track of timelines and deadlines
- Represent you in hearings before a workers' compensation judge
- Tell you about additional claims and benefits that may be available
- Keep up with the latest laws and regulations

Q. How are attorneys paid?

A. Most applicants' attorneys provide one free consultation. If you hire an attorney, you don't pay right away. Instead, the attorney's fee is taken out of some of your benefits later. The fee is usually 9 percent to 15 percent of your final permanent disability settlement or award. A workers' compensation judge must approve the fee. Note: Often applicants' attorneys will not take cases where the worker does not have a permanent disability.

Q. What are possible drawbacks of hiring an attorney?

A. The attorney's fee will be taken out of your benefits. Also, other people involved in your case may be allowed to speak only with your attorney on important matters, and cannot speak directly with you.

ASDCE

The Association of San Diego County Employees

Phone: 877-92-ASDCE / 877-922-7323

Website: ASDCE.ORG

Email: info@asdce.org