

Trovillion, Inveiss & Demakis

Trovillion, Inveiss & Demakis, APC has grown in reputation as one of Southern California's premier law firms specializing in representation of employers, insurance carriers and third party administrators in workers' compensation litigation.

SAN DIEGO

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OCTOBER, 2015

TID FRAUD SEMINAR

TID will be partnering with San Diego District Attorney Bonnie Dumanis, San Diego County Supervisor Dianne Jacob and orthopedic surgeon Jeffrey Bernicker on a fraud seminar. The seminar will be in February 2016. Stay tuned to our website for further information and registration.

TID FIRM NEWS - LA OFFICE TO MOVE

Our Los Angeles office is relocating to Pasadena. Projected move in date is January 1, 2016. The new address will be 131 N. Molino Avenue, Ste. 200, Pasadena, CA 91101. Keep posted to our website for further information.

TID WELCOMES NEW ATTORNEY TO FIRM

PRACTICE POINTERS: TIPS ON IDENTIFYING FRAUDULENT CLAIMS

Workers' compensation fraud is a topic of considerable discussion. The workers' compensation system in California is a no-fault system. This means that an employee is not required to prove fault or negligence to receive workers' compensation benefits. Unfortunately, some employees take advantage of this system by filing fraudulent claims that involve fabricated or exaggerated injuries. The resulting consequence is that insurance companies are left holding the bill, and the costs are eventually borne by the general public.

Insurance professionals, employers, claim representatives and defense attorneys can employ certain investigative tactics to identify and combat fraud. Below are some useful tips to help identify fraudulent claims.

- Consider whether the incident was reported on a Monday, or after the claimant has returned from vacation.
- Consider whether there were any delays in reporting the claim.
- Inquire whether there have been any changes at the workplace, such as a notice of lay-off, termination, or rumors of a strike.
- Investigate whether the claimant has been experiencing any performance or disciplinary issues at work.
- Determine whether the claimant's description of the alleged injury is consistent with the statements to medical providers.
- Find out whether the claimant has a history of filing worker's compensation claims.

Attorney Lisa Lesley joined the firm on October 1, 2015. Lisa works in our San Diego office and specializes in handling all aspects of the defense of workers' compensation claims.

Lisa joins TID with 14 years of experience handling complex civil litigation, workers' compensation defense and the unique experience of representing Taft-Hartley Trust Funds collecting delinquent fringe benefit contributions pursuant to ERISA.

An undergraduate of Arizona State University, Lisa received her Juris Doctor from California Western School of Law and has been practicing since 2001. In her free time, Lisa volunteers with special needs children, enjoys paddle boarding, travel and college football. Please contact Lisa at LLesley@TIDLAW.com to welcome her to the firm.

- Consider whether the claimant has a child support lien, tax lien, or any other significant financial obligations.
- Inquire whether the claimant engages in any hobbies outside of work.
- Consider whether the claimant has any personal issues or domestic problems.
- Obtain a detailed statement early in the investigation from the claimant, employer and any witnesses.
- Review the Internet and social media sites to identify any activity that may be inconsistent with what was reported by the claimant. Create a Google alert that will send you an e-mail when the claimant's name is mentioned on the Internet.
- If a claim seems suspicious, consider surveillance.

These investigative tactics, especially if implemented at the inception of the claim, can prove to be effective in identifying and combating fraudulent claims.

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