



**TENNESSEE WORKERS' COMPENSATION  
APPEALS BOARD  
Oral Argument Docket  
January 27, 2023**

**PANEL**

**Timothy W. Conner, Presiding Judge  
Pele I. Godkin, Judge  
Meredith B. Weaver, Judge**

**Oral Argument is limited to twenty-five minutes per side  
unless otherwise directed by the Appeals Board.**

**Olivia Yearwood, Clerk**

**ARGUMENTS TO BE HELD IN THE  
COURTROOM:**

**Belmont University College of Law  
1901 15th Avenue South  
Nashville, TN 37212**

**PARKING ARRANGEMENTS**

**<https://belmont.aimsparking.com/>**

# Oral Argument Docket

**Friday, January 27, 2023**  
**9:00 A.M. Session**

## **1. JOHNNY ACEVEDO V. CROWN PAVING, LLC**

**Docket No. 2021-06-1453**

**Attorneys:**

Appellant: Crown Paving, LLC

A. Allen Grant

Appellee: Johnny Acevedo

Jill Draughon

Appellee: HTI Memorial Hospital d/b/a Skyline Medical Center

Catheryne Grant

**Court of Workers' Compensation Claims:** Nashville

**Chief Judge:** Kenneth M. Switzer

## **2. JOHN EARHEART, JR. V. CENTRAL TRANSPORT, INC.**

**Docket No. 2019-06-1297**

**Attorneys:**

Appellant: Central Transport, Inc.

Richard R. Clark, Jr.

Appellee: John Earheart, Jr.

D. Andrew Saulters

**Court of Workers' Compensation Claims:** Nashville

**Chief Judge:** Kenneth M. Switzer

**3. SEBASTIAN MITCHELL V. AECOM D/B/A SHIMMICK CONSTRUCTION,  
INC.**

**Docket No. 2020-01-0494**

**Attorneys:**

Appellant: AECOM d/b/a Shimmick Construction, Inc.

Stephanie A. Rockwell

Appellee: Sebastian Mitchell

Brent Burks

**Court of Workers' Compensation Claims:** Chattanooga

**Judge:** Thomas L. Wyatt

# Workers' Compensation Appeals Board Judges



**Timothy W. Conner** is the presiding judge of the Tennessee Workers' Compensation Appeals Board, where he has served since August 1, 2014. Prior to that, Judge Conner practiced law for twenty-two years in the areas of workers' compensation, wills and estates, and general liability defense. He is also an Adjunct Professor at Lincoln Memorial University's Duncan School of Law, where he teaches Legal Writing and Workers' Compensation Law. He received his bachelor's degree from Boston University and his J.D. from Wake Forest University School of Law. He is a member of the Knoxville and Tennessee Bar Associations, the Hamilton Burnett American Inn of Court, and the National Association of Workers' Compensation Judiciary.

**Pele I. Godkin** was appointed to the Tennessee Workers' Compensation Appeals Board by Governor Bill Lee on January 14, 2020. Judge Godkin began her practice in Tennessee as a workers' compensation specialist for the Tennessee Bureau of Workers' Compensation, formerly known as the Division of Workers' Compensation, shortly after the 2004 workers' compensation reform. Judge Godkin eventually transitioned into working as a Supervising Attorney and, while in this role, served in a quasi-judicial capacity which included determining parties' legal rights/duties under the law, discharging the agency's jurisdiction to review and enter appropriate orders with regard to workers' compensation issues, and reviewing/approving proposed settlements of workers' compensation claims. Judge Godkin entered private practice in 2008 where she litigated workers' compensation claims, medical malpractice claims, and general liability defense cases. Judge Godkin received her bachelor's degree from Central Washington University and her J.D. from Seattle University School of Law.



**Meredith Balthrop Weaver** was appointed to the Appeals Board by Governor Bill Lee in June of 2022. Prior to that, she worked for 17 years in the private sector, primarily in workers' compensation, employment law, and general liability defense. A Tennessee native, she went to Auburn University for her undergraduate degree in communications. She returned to her native state to obtain her law degree from University of Tennessee and remained in Knoxville following graduation. While in private practice, she was on the Board for CASA of East Tennessee and served in other civic community groups as well. She currently serves in various capacities on the Boards for her children's schools and is active in the Knoxville Bar Association, as well as the East Tennessee Lawyers' Association for Women.