

# LIEN SCENE

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## BOEHM & ASSOCIATES

HEALTHCARE RECOVERY SPECIALISTS

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### CONGRATULATIONS, NORMA!

We would like to acknowledge and congratulate Norma Hartsfield, a hard working claims processor in our Alameda office who on March 10 reached her twentieth year at Boehm & Associates. We appreciate Norma's loyalty and dedication to our company and, of course, her beautiful smile and infectious laugh!

The conversion to our new telephone system is complete in both the Alameda and the Glendale offices. Please note new extension numbers for contacts below. The main number for each office remains the same.

### DWC Makes Its Case Electronically: A Step Forward or Backward?

The California Division of Workers' Compensation (DWC) is in the final stages of launching its new Electronic Adjudicatory Management System (EAMS). The DWC's intention is to streamline creation and maintenance of court files, to eliminate paper documents through electronic filing, and to facilitate party access to case information. These are all laudable goals; unfortunately, the system in its present development will restrict party access to necessary case information rather than facilitate it.

Under the current system, known as EDEX, Boehm has the ability to download case information automatically. In addition to information about the injured worker and the nature of the claimed injury, we also receive hearing notices and case status information. Another feature of EDEX is our ability to file our clients' liens electronically. When the new EAMS goes live on the currently scheduled date of August 25, 2008, EDEX will be turned off and the transmission of information between the state and outside users will be seriously curtailed. The reasons are two-fold.

First, according to DWC's explanation of EAMS, outside users can search for a known case in order to access information, but there will be no ability to download filed cases in bulk. This means lien claimants will have a severely restricted ability to identify unknown cases where a work-related connection has been claimed. Compounding the problem, the DWC will limit the personally identifiable information about claimants.

Second, and more fundamental, the DWC did not appropriately anticipate the number of outside users and they do not have enough licenses to allow unencumbered access to EAMS. It's somewhat analogous to freeway construction design: there are more cars than lanes to handle them, even before the freeway is built.

Boehm is monitoring the situation closely. On April 9, 2008, we attended a legislative hearing to address some of the concerns expressed above. Additionally, our IT specialist, Stan Wong, has applied to participate in an advisory group to assist the DWC in blending the EDEX and EAMS systems. We are also working with the workers' compensation community to assure that our clients' rights will not be compromised.

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