

Martin W. Stefen

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Education

- Major: Business Administration, California State University, Long Beach (2002)
- Pacific Coast University School of Law, JD (2007)

Experience

FOUNDING PARTNER | MISA KOLLER STEFEN WARD LLP | APRIL 2016 TO PRESENT

- Founding Partner at Misa Koller Stefen Ward LLP.

ATTORNEY AT LAW & PARTNER | ADELSON TESTAN BRUNDO NOVELL AND JIMENEZ | JANUARY 2009 TO APRIL 2012 AND JANUARY 2013 THROUGH APRIL 2016

I am a Workers Compensation Defense Attorney with over 14 years of California workers compensation experience between the practice of law and claims administration. Prior to becoming an attorney, I was a senior workers compensation claims examiner for over 6 years. Based on my experience level and litigation results I have been chosen as a panel attorney for multiple Fortune 500 companies. Large corporations have substantial reserves allocated for their California workers compensation claims and as a defense attorney I focus on mitigating claims exposure by moving the cases to finalization as quickly as possible. This is done by effective file management, collaboration with the claims team and employer, and aggressive pursuit of case closure through litigation and/or preemptive resolution.

IN HOUSE COUNSEL | PACIFIC COMPENSATION INSURANCE COMPANY | APRIL 2012 TO JANUARY 2013

As in house counsel, I focused on mitigating claims exposure by proactive file handling, timely responsiveness to the claims examiners, strategic roundtable sessions with claims, collaboration with the employer, and aggressive pursuit of case closure through litigation and/or preemptive resolution.

MEDICAL COMMUNITY LIAISON/ SENIOR CLAIMS EXAMINER | STATE COMPENSATION INSURANCE FUND | 05/2002 – 01/2009

As a senior claims examiner I managed an active case load of 180 claims. On a daily basis I made liability determinations based on the California Labor Code, interviewing the employer, the injured employee, and any beneficial witnesses. I reviewed medical reports to determine the benefits that may be owed to the injured employee and calculated the benefit based on the employee's wages. In the finalization of claims, I drafted settlement documents and negotiated the settlements with opposing counsel and various lien claimants. I was also responsible for training our claims staff on legislative changes. I received numerous awards for my productivity and contributions to our department.

RECOGNITION

- 2004 State Fund Recognition of Performance Excellence
- 2003 President's Award for Corporate Excellence- Top 4% of all adjusters.