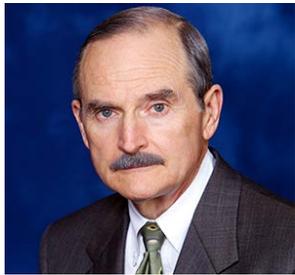




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Oklahoma Supreme Court Rules Workers' Compensation System Is Constitutional

Labor & Employment Practice Group

December 19, 2013

The watchful eyes of the Oklahoma business community have been fixed on the Oklahoma Supreme Court, waiting on word as to whether or not the Oklahoma Legislature's planned sweeping changes to the workers' compensation system will pass legal muster. On Monday of this week they got at least the first part of that answer.

The Oklahoma Supreme Court ruled on Monday that the new workers' compensation system complies with the Oklahoma Constitution. In its ruling, the Court stated, "It is ordered that Senate Bill 1062 is not unconstitutional as a multiple-subject bill and the Legislature has exercised proper authority in a matter over which it has power to act by adopting a code for future execution of workers' compensation law. Until such time as a case or controversy or a justiciable issue is presented to the Court, we are without jurisdiction rule further with regard to the Act."

This is just the first skirmish in what will be a continuing legal battle. We now know that the legislation will not be overturned on constitutional grounds. Undoubtedly, further legal challenges lie ahead. For now, though, the new administrative workers' compensation system is set to take effect February 1, 2014.

The Labor & Employment practice group at Crowe & Dunlevy will keep you informed on further developments in the lead up to this dynamic change to workers' compensation law in our state.

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with offices in Oklahoma City and Tulsa. The firm and its attorneys are annually ranked among the top professionals in the nation by recognized peer-review organizations.

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