



**TENNESSEE WORKERS' COMPENSATION
APPEALS BOARD
Oral Argument Docket
February 7, 2022**

PANEL

**Timothy W. Conner, Presiding Judge
David F. Hensley, Judge
Pele I. Godkin, 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 REMOTELY VIA
MICROSOFT TEAMS**

Oral Argument Docket

Monday, February 7, 2022
9:00 A.M. Session

1. TAWAN BRADEN V. MOHAWK INDUSTRIES, INC.

Docket No. 2019-08-0544 | [Join via Teams](#) *at 9:00 AM Central*

Attorneys:

Appellant: Mohawk Industries, Inc.

Carolina Martin

Appellee: Tawan Braden

Monica R. Rejaei

Court of Workers' Compensation Claims: Memphis

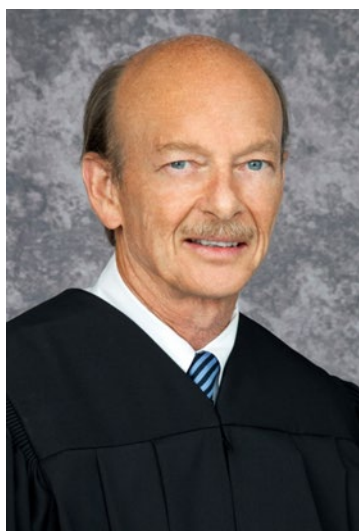
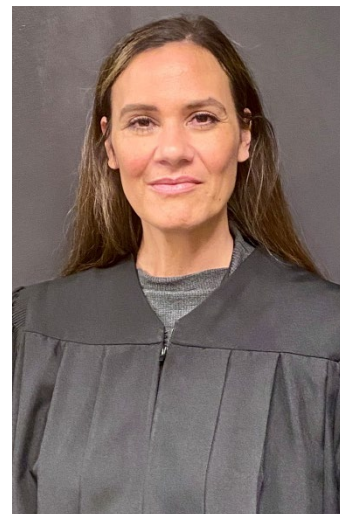
Judge: Deana C. Seymour

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.

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.



David F. Hensley began his legal career in Chattanooga clerking for Judge Herschel P. Franks of the Tennessee Court of Appeals following graduation from the University of Tennessee College of Law in 1979. He was in private practice from 1981 to 2014, handling cases involving workers' compensation, insurance defense, insurance fraud, construction law, and estates. From 2004 until his appointment to the Appeals Board, Judge Hensley was a partner and shareholder in the Chattanooga firm of Franklin, Cooper & Marcus, PLLC. Originally from Athens, Tennessee, Judge Hensley relocated to Chattanooga in 1979 and served as a member and Chairman of the Board of the North River YMCA and a member of the Board of Ronald McDonald House Charities of Greater Chattanooga. In 2014, he was appointed by Governor Bill Haslam to the Tennessee Workers' Compensation Appeals Board and, in 2018, he was reappointed by Governor Haslam to a six-year term. Judge Hensley has an avid interest in water skiing and sailboat racing.