## Workers' Compensation E-Alert

In an effort to bring you up-to-date information that affects your every day claims handling, the defense team at Conroy Simberg is pleased to bring you electronic alerts regarding the latest legal opinions from the Florida court system. This update will provide you with the latest rulings, verdicts, legal implications and practice tips. In addition to this electronic update, the attorneys at Conroy Simberg are ready to answer any questions you may have regarding the contents contained herein, as well as discuss the relationship to existing claims. Please feel free to contact any of our attorneys, at any of our ten office locations throughout the State of Florida. You can also visit our website at <a href="www.conroysimberg.com">www.conroysimberg.com</a>.

Christian Petric, a partner in our West Palm Beach office, recently prevailed at Final Hearing in the workers' compensation matter of <u>Reynaldo Bello Castillo v. Idlewild Stable, Inc.</u> In this claim, the Claimant sustained a compensable hernia and lower back injury. Treatment had been provided for years until the expiration of temporary benefits. The Claimant then filed a claim for permanent total disability.

Subsequently, the Carrier obtained surveillance footage of the Claimant conducting numerous activities he claimed he was unable to do, such as walking outside without a cane, walking without a limp, going up and down stairs without any difficulty, doing laundry, taking out the trash, squatting, bending and speaking on the cell phone without difficulty.

The Judge of Compensation Claims found that the Claimant made false statements knowingly or intentionally for the purpose of securing workers compensation benefits and accordingly, the JCC denied the claimant all benefits. The Judge even went as far as to order the Claimant to repay to the Carrier 57 weeks of temporary benefits that were inadvertently overpaid to the Claimant.

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