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Office of Injured Employee Counsel Celebrates 10th Anniversary

Austin, Texas – February 25, 2016 – The Office of Injured Employee Counsel is celebrating 10 years of helping injured employees with workers’ compensation disputes. The state agency was authorized by the 79th Texas Legislature on September 1, 2005 and first started helping injured employees on March 1, 2006.

The agency has spent the past 10 years offering free dispute assistance to injured employees or their beneficiaries who don’t have legal representation. In the past two years, OIEC ombudsmen helped injured employees in 45 percent of all workers’ compensation disputes.

“We are excited to celebrate the work and accomplishments of our agency in helping injured employees over the past 10 years,” said Jessica Corna, Public Counsel for the Office of Injured Employee Counsel. “We will continue to grow and evolve to meet our customer’s needs over the next decade.”

The agency provided assistance to more than 57,000 injured employees in the last two years. OIEC’s legal services department advocates on behalf of injured employees as a class and makes recommendations to the legislature. Last session, OIEC’s efforts resulted in the passage of Senate Bill 901, which took effect September 1, 2015.

“OIEC’s legislative recommendation aimed to increase the benchmark earnings rate from \$8.50 an hour to \$10,” Corna said. “This is a great accomplishment which allows more than 3,000 low-income injured employees to be eligible to receive additional temporary income benefits.”

The agency’s 10th anniversary celebration plans include a new website, launching soon.

About the Office of Injured Employee Counsel

The Office of Injured Employee Counsel (OIEC) is the state agency that assists, educates, and advocates on behalf of the injured employees of Texas. OIEC has 21 offices throughout Texas. The agency’s services include advocacy, customer service, and dispute assistance. For more about the Office of Injured Employee Counsel visit oiec.texas.gov.

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