



## NEW JERSEY STATE BAR ASSOCIATION

EVELYN PADIN, PRESIDENT  
Law Office of Evelyn Padin  
286 First Street  
Jersey City, NJ 07302  
201-963-8822 • FAX: 201-963-8874  
evelyn@lawjcnj.com

September 30, 2019

Robert Asaro-Angelo, Commissioner  
New Jersey Department of Labor & Workforce Development  
1 John Fitch Plaza  
Trenton, New Jersey 08611

RE: Security in the Courts within the Division of Workers' Compensation

Dear Commissioner Asaro-Angelo:

On behalf of the New Jersey State Bar Association, I am writing to you to express the Committee's concern respecting security provided within the Workers' Compensation Courts throughout New Jersey.

As you may know, the security afforded the 15 Workers' Compensation Courts throughout the state varies from venue to venue. Most locations provide a single, private security guard, but lack metal detectors or other resources to adequately screen individuals entering the Workers' Compensation Courts.

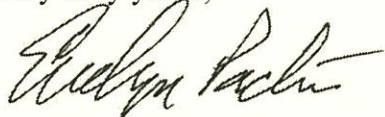
The courts can be an emotionally-charged experience for an injured worker. The life of an injured worker can be permanently changed by the work injury, and the worker may be unable to manage the emotional impact of the injury. On occasion, an injured worker can become hostile to an employer, its insurance carrier, the Court and/or even his or her own lawyer.

As you no doubt are aware, such was the circumstance recently when an injured worker appeared in the Hackensack Compensation Court and threatened to kill various persons, including, a Workers' Compensation Judge. The building where the Hackensack Court is located is one of the aforementioned courts that is not equipped with a metal detector or other means to properly screen individuals for weapons.

The NJSBA is concerned for the safety of the judges, the staff, the lawyers and the general public who appear in the Workers' Compensation Courts. We respectfully request that the Department of Labor and Workforce Development address these serious safety concerns uniformly throughout the state, in order to avoid a potential tragedy.

Thank you for your attention to our concerns, and should you require additional information, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Evelyn Padin". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a prominent initial "E".

Evelyn Padin  
President

cc: Hon. Russel Wojtenko Jr., Director and Chief Judge, New Jersey Division of  
Workers' Compensation  
Kimberly A. Yonta, Esq., NJSBA President-Elect  
Angela C. Scheck, NJSBA Executive Director