



CALIFORNIA
UNEMPLOYMENT
INSURANCE
APPEALS BOARD



N E W S R E L E A S E

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High Demand Continues for Unemployment Insurance Benefit Appeals

SACRAMENTO – The year 2011 saw continued high demand for impartial reviews by the California Unemployment Insurance Appeals Board of the unemployment benefit decisions made by the Employment Development Department, as the state continued to struggle with high unemployment and record levels of unemployment insurance benefit claims and appeals.

In 2011, administrative judges at the California Unemployment Insurance Appeals Board (CUIAB) heard appeals of 441,043 unemployment benefit cases, and of 467,229 cases for all types of appeals, which include appeals of unemployment, disability and paid family leave benefit decisions, and employer tax petitions. Unemployment benefit cases alone averaged just over 36,750 per month.

Also in 2011, Board Members decided 34,345 second-level appeal cases involving unemployment benefits, and 36,090 cases for all second-level appeals. Board reviews of unemployment benefit appeals averaged just over 2,860 cases per month. As each case requires the review of two board members, this reflects an average workload of 46 cases per member per day, allowing for board vacancies. In the last three months of the year, with only five members, this average increased to 65 cases per day.

For years 2010 and 2011, CUIAB administrative judges and Board Members heard a combined total of over one-half million appeal cases each year, the highest production in CUIAB history. Unemployment benefit cases represent about 94% to 95% of this workload.

According to US Department of Labor statistics, California processes about one of every five judicial appeals for unemployment benefits filed in the nation, and the Board Members review about one of every nine board-level appeals in the nation.

The California Unemployment Insurance Appeals Board was established by the Legislature in 1943 as a separate administrative court system to provide due process for workers and employers who disagree with the Employment Development Department's unemployment, disability and paid family leave benefit decisions, and employer tax assessments. California is one of 47 states that provide two levels of appeal; the first level is an appeal of the Department's decision and the second level is an appeal of the administrative judge's' first-level decision.

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