



CALIFORNIA UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE APPEALS BOARD

HISTORY

- 1935 President Franklin Roosevelt enacted the Social Security Act of 1935 that created the unemployment program to relieve the economic hardship of workers who lost their jobs through no fault of their own. The program is also in place to help stimulate the economy by providing weekly wage replacement funds to the unemployed who would spend the money in the local economy.
- 1936 California Governor Frank Merriam enacted the Unemployment Reserves Act of 1936 to authorize the unemployment program in the state. Beginning in August 1936, employers and workers paid into the Unemployment Fund. The first benefits were paid to eligible claimants beginning January 1, 1938. One third of the cost was borne by workers and two-thirds by employers. Today, employers pay the entire cost.
- 1943 The California Legislature created the California Employment Stabilization Commission. This was a five-person commission appointed by the Governor. Three of the five commissioners made up what is now the California Unemployment Insurance Appeals Board to review and decide appeals relating to disputes of the EDD's unemployment and disability benefit determinations and employer tax liabilities.
- 1946 The position of Principal Referee (now Chief Administrative Law Judge) was officially established. Appeals during this early time were heard by referees, and appeals from referees decisions were decided by the commission.
- 1949 The Appeals Board was designated a separate Division of the Employment Development Department (EDD). Since that time, the Board and its adjudicative staff have exercised an independent review of appeals and petitions from the program administrative activities at EDD. There were three referee offices located in Sacramento, San Francisco, and Los Angeles.
- 1967 The California Legislature increased the CUIAB membership from three to five members.
- 1982 The California Legislature increased the CUIAB membership from five to seven members.
- Today The California Legislature decreased the CUIAB membership from seven to five members. The Governor appoints three members to the CUIAB and the Speaker of the Assembly and Senate President Pro Tem each appoint one member. The Chief Administrative Law Judge/Executive Director and Chief Counsel serve the Board and are supported by five Divisions – Executive, Appellate Operations, Field Operations, Administrative Services, and Information Technology.

CUIAB is headquartered in Sacramento with 11 Field Offices and 26 out-stations.