

**40 YEARS OF OSHRC: A RETROSPECTIVE FROM THOSE WHO WERE THERE -TUESDAY, JUNE
21st at 2pm**

In celebration of its 40th Anniversary year, the Occupational Safety and Health Review Commission (Review Commission) will host a panel discussion of the first years of the Williams-Steiger Occupational Safety and Health Act of 1970 (OSH Act). The event will take place on June 21, 2011 from 2 to 4 p.m. in the Review Commission's hearing room located on the 9th floor of One Lafayette Centre South, 1120 20th Street NW, Washington, DC 20036-3457. The panelists are among the earliest participants in the implementation of the OSH Act, and bring to the discussion diverse perspectives: private industry, organized labor, the U.S. Department of Labor, and the Review Commission:

Moderator – Former Commission Chair H. A. (“Topper”) Thompson III was Management Co-Chair of the Occupational Safety and Health Law Committee (“OSH Law Committee”) of the Labor and Employment Law (“L & E”) Section of the ABA and co-edited the first ABA/BNA treatise on Occupational Safety and Health Law.

Panelist – Donald Elisburg was staff counsel to Senator Harrison Williams during the drafting of the Williams-Steiger OSH Act, and later served as Assistant Secretary of Labor for Employment Standards during the formative years of the Occupational Safety and Health Administration (“OSHA”). He also served as Union Co-Chair and L & E Section Governing Council Liaison to the ABA OSH Law Committee.

Panelist – Professor Benjamin Mintz has taught OSH Law and other employment law subjects at the Columbus School of Law of The Catholic University of America in Washington, DC and at Georgetown Law School. He served as Associate Solicitor of Labor for the first decade after the formation of OSHA, performing a key role in the implementation of the OSH Act.

Panelist – FMCS Director George H. Cohen, in his prior law practice as a senior partner with Bredhoff & Kaiser PLLC in Washington, DC, argued the seminal Supreme Court OSH standards cases - benzene and cotton dust, the latter of which established the scope of the Secretary of Labor's authority to regulate worker exposure to toxic substances. He also has served as an adjunct professor teaching OSH Law at Georgetown Law School, a mediator in private practice, and a Union Co-Chair of the OSH Law Committee of the ABA L & E Section.

Panelist – Former Commission Chair W. Scott Railton was Assistant Counsel for Regional Litigation (OSH) in the Solicitor's Office of the U.S. Department of Labor during the implementation of the OSH Act, involved in writing OSHA's rules as well as putting together the initial standards packages. Subsequently, he served during the Commission's earliest years as Chief Counsel to Commissioner James Van Namee and then to the second Commission Chair Frank Barnako. He served as a Management Co-Chair of the ABA OSH Law Committee.

Panelist – Robert C. Gombar, Sr. served as General Counsel and Chief Legal Officer of the Commission during the term of the third Commission Chair, Tim Cleary. He was past Chair of the OSHA, MSHA and Catastrophe Response Group of McDermott Will & Emery, LLP, before becoming General Counsel and Senior Principal Consultant at Baker Engineering and Risk Consultants, Inc.

Capacity is limited, please RSVP no later than June 17, 2011, to Melik Ahmir-abdul at sahmir-abdul@oshrc.gov.