



**TENNESSEE WORKERS' COMPENSATION
APPEALS BOARD
Oral Argument Docket
August 10, 2022**

**PANEL
Timothy W. Conner, Presiding Judge
Pele I. Godkin, Judge
Meredith B. Weaver, Judge**

**Oral Argument is limited to twenty-five minutes per side
unless otherwise directed by the Appeals Board.**

Olivia Yearwood, Clerk

**ARGUMENTS TO BE HELD REMOTELY VIA
MICROSOFT TEAMS**

Oral Argument Docket

Wednesday, August 10, 2022
9:00 A.M. Session

1. KACI L. JOHNSON V. INSPIRE BRANDS D/B/A BLAZIN WINGS, INC.

Docket No. 2020-08-0731 | [Join via Teams](#) *at 9:00 AM Central*

Attorneys:

Appellant: Inspire Brands d/b/a Blazin Wings, Inc.

A. Allen Grant

Appellee: Kaci L. Johnson

Monica R. Rejaei

Court of Workers' Compensation Claims: Jackson

Judge: Allen Phillips

2. BENJAMIN GRISSOM V. AT&T SERVICES, INC.

Docket No. 2021-05-0400 | [Join via Teams](#) *at 10:15 AM Central*

Attorneys:

Appellant: AT&T Services, Inc.

Charles E. Pierce

Appellee: Benjamin Grissom

Stephan D. Karr

Court of Workers' Compensation Claims: Murfreesboro

Judge: Dale A. Tipps

Workers' Compensation Appeals Board Judges



Timothy W. Conner is the presiding judge of the Tennessee Workers' Compensation Appeals Board, where he has served since August 1, 2014. Prior to that, Judge Conner practiced law for twenty-two years in the areas of workers' compensation, wills and estates, and general liability defense. He is also an Adjunct Professor at Lincoln Memorial University's Duncan School of Law, where he teaches Legal Writing and Workers' Compensation Law. He received his bachelor's degree from Boston University and his J.D. from Wake Forest University School of Law.

Pele I. Godkin was appointed to the Tennessee Workers' Compensation Appeals Board by Governor Bill Lee on January 14, 2020. Judge Godkin began her practice in Tennessee as a workers' compensation specialist for the Tennessee Bureau of Workers' Compensation, formerly known as the Division of Workers' Compensation, shortly after the 2004 workers' compensation reform. Judge Godkin eventually transitioned into working as a Supervising Attorney and, while in this role, served in a quasi-judicial capacity which included determining parties' legal rights/duties under the law, discharging the agency's jurisdiction to review and enter appropriate orders with regard to workers' compensation issues, and reviewing/approving proposed settlements of workers' compensation claims. Judge Godkin entered private practice in 2008 where she litigated workers' compensation claims, medical malpractice claims, and general liability defense cases. Judge Godkin received her bachelor's degree from Central Washington University and her J.D. from Seattle University School of Law.



Meredith Balthrop Weaver was appointed to the Appeals Board by Governor Bill Lee in June of 2022. Prior to that, she worked for 17 years in the private sector, primarily in workers' compensation, employment law, and general liability defense. A Tennessee native, she went to Auburn University for her undergraduate degree in communications. She returned to her native state to obtain her law degree from University of Tennessee and remained in Knoxville following graduation. While in private practice, she was on the Board for CASA of East Tennessee and served in other civic community groups as well. She currently serves in various capacities on the Boards for her children's schools and is active in the Knoxville Bar Association, as well as the East Tennessee Lawyers' Association for Women.