



Memorandum

Date : March 2025

To : Public Mailing List

From : New Motor Vehicle Board
(916) 445-1888
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Subject : Revisions to Assignment of Administrative Law Judges to Merits Hearings and Settlement Conferences

For the past two years, the Board has been considering transitioning all merits hearings to the Office of Administrative Hearings (OAH). This proposal was reviewed and approved by the then Ad Hoc Committee on Equity, Justice and Inclusion at its November 1, 2024, meeting. At the Board's February 28, 2025, General Meeting, this proposal was unanimously approved. Effective immediately, all merits hearings in new protests and existing protests will be assigned to OAH.

All law and motion hearings and settlement conferences will continue to be heard by the Board Administrative Law Judges up to the Hearing Readiness Conference. If counsel for the parties at the Hearing Readiness Conference indicate they are prepared to go to hearing, then the Board submits to OAH a Request for Hearing and takes no further action in the protest unless Protestant files a Request for Dismissal. After the hearing, the assigned OAH Administrative Law Judge drafts a Proposed Decision for consideration by the Board at a public meeting.

This topic will be discussed at the Board's March 27, 2025, Industry Roundtable being held in Sacramento. If you would like more information, please refer to the Board's website at: https://www.nmvp.ca.gov/apps/rsvp_form/RsvpForm.aspx.

On October 28, 2024, the Board's Executive Committee designated Robin Parker, Chief Counsel, as the Board's Hearing Officer for Mandatory Settlement Conferences on an emergency basis given the unexpected passing of Designated Mandatory Settlement Conference Judge Marilyn Wong. This designation was unanimously approved by the Board at its February 28, 2025, General Meeting.

If you have any questions or comments, please do not hesitate to contact Robin Parker, Chief Counsel at Robin.Parker@nmvp.ca.gov.