

Buehrer begins term as BWC Administrator

Steve Buehrer was sworn in as Administrator/CEO of the Ohio Bureau of Workers' Compensation (BWC) on January 10, 2011. He vowed to an audience of BWC staff, business leaders, labor representatives and representatives of Ohio's workers' compensation system that their input will be expected and important in making workers' compensation a complement to Ohio's overall business climate. "Your voice will be heard," said Administrator Buehrer. "Change is not always easy, but it's vital to our state's future. We must put Ohio first at this time. The door is open, we need your feedback."

The former state senator and attorney was welcomed to his new role during a brief ceremony at BWC's William Green Building in Columbus. State Senator Tom Niehaus (R-New Richmond) opened the ceremony and Franklin County Common Pleas Court Judge Kim A. Browne administered the oath of office to Administrator Buehrer. Judge Browne and Buehrer worked together at BWC in the 1990s.

In his remarks, Buehrer stressed the importance of service to the two customers of the Bureau, injured workers and employers. He told BWC staff that they are pivotal in developing ways to better serve these customer groups. "Employees are the back bone of BWC," added Buehrer. "You will be engaged and you will be challenged."

A native of Delta in northwest Ohio, Administrator Buehrer most recently represented Ohio's 1st Senate District, a seat he held since 2007. There, he served as chairman of the Insurance, Commerce and Labor Committee, focusing on key issues that impact Ohio's economy, including business regulations, consumer protection and workers' compensation law. Buehrer previously served four terms beginning in 1999 as the state representative for the 82nd Ohio House District.

Buehrer has been a practicing attorney and operated a small business with his wife, Cathy. In addition, he has extensive experience in state government including work in the offices of the late Congressman Paul Gillmor, and former Ohio House Speaker Jo Ann Davidson. He also served as Director of Legislative Affairs for the Ohio Bureau of Employment Services; Deputy Director with the Ohio Department of Administrative Services; and was BWC's Chief of Human Resources from 1995 to 1998.

Administrator Buehrer attended Bowling Green State University, where he earned a degree in social studies education. He also holds a law degree from Capital University. Buehrer and his wife have three sons.