

## **SUMMARY STATEMENT**

*Ayala v. Meyers Farms, Inc.*, Docket No. 46186

The Supreme Court set aside the decision of the Industrial Commission. Ayala, the claimant, was injured while driving a company vehicle in 2009, and in 2013 after falling and injuring his right knee. After a hearing before a referee, the Industrial Commission reassigned the case to itself—over Ayala’s objection—and found that Ayala’s low back condition was not causally related to his 2009 industrial accident, that he was not totally and permanently disabled under the odd-lot worker doctrine, and that he suffered disability of 40% of the whole person inclusive of impairment of his 2009 and 2013 industrial accidents. Ayala appealed these findings, arguing that the Commission denied him due process by failing to have the referee issue recommendations. The Supreme Court agreed, holding the Commission violated Ayala’s due process right to a fair hearing. The Court set aside the Industrial Commission’s findings of fact and conclusions of law, and remanded the case for a new hearing.