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State of New York Court of Appeals

In the Matter of the Claim of

LORI HILL-HOLLEY Appellant,

v.

KINGS COUNTY HOSPITAL et al., Respondents,

WORKERS' COMPENSATION BOARD, Respondent.

May 30, 2024

Facts: Claimant filed a claim for workers' compensation benefits alleging that her 29 years of service as a billing and coding specialist was the cause of her carpal tunnel syndrome. The claim was controverted, and the Workers' Compensation Judge found prima facie medical evidence of bilateral carpal tunnel syndrome. Following a hearing, the Workers' Compensation Board disallowed the claim based upon the medical opinions of her treating physicians lacking causation and detailed mechanism of injury related to her employment; particularly that of her treating physician reporting that her carpal tunnel was due to her diabetic condition seven years prior to her claim. The Claimant appealed.

Holding: *Affirmed.*

Discussion: The Court held that the Board's decision as to whether to classify a certain medical condition as an occupational disease is a factual determination that will not be disturbed if supported by substantial evidence. The Court found the Board's determination was supported by substantial evidence; namely, the Claimant's medical report showing her disease was linked to a prior condition, coupled with the lack of evidence that it was linked to any specific job duty of hers.