

JUDITH DENNIS' Injured Worker Horror Story



I tore cartilage in my knee at work. Surgery was denied, and then unsuccessful. Temporary disability support was taken away. I have lost my apartment, my savings and everything I worked so hard to build up. \$3,500 is not adequate compensation for my disability and lost past and future earnings.

About Me: My name is Judith Dennis.

My Family: I am 54 years old and I live in San Diego.

My Job and What Happened: I worked as an Assistant Store Manager at Pier One Imports. On 11/1/2005, I suffered a knee injury while moving furniture with a dolly. A customer asked me a question and I set the dolly down. When I went to turn, the dolly caught my foot and twisted my knee. I tore the medial meniscus of my right knee and also injured the cartilage of the patella (knee cap). The doctor recommended a partial knee replacement, but the insurance company denied that. I had one surgery, which did not fix the injury – but the insurance company wanted to send me on my way. I demanded a second opinion, which found a continuing injury, and I have had to have a second surgery to correct the problem.

What this has meant to my life: This work injury has been financially devastating. Prior to my injury, I was making approximately \$28,800.00 per year. Since my injury, I have lost my apartment, my savings, everything I have worked so hard to build up. This was due to the delays in getting proper medical care, and the lack of support during my disability. I was paid temporary disability benefits for just 32 weeks of the past two years.

**BEFORE
\$33,500**

**AFTER
\$3,500**

How the Governor's Workers' Comp Law Affects Me

How Workers' Comp was supposed to help me: Workers compensation insurance was to provide temporary disability support while I heal, and medical care to repair my injury. But I have had no income during this period. I have no money. My expected Permanent Disability compensation utterly fails to fairly address the nature of my injury and its impact on my ability to work and live my life. It wouldn't replace even a fraction of my lost earnings.

www.VotersInjuredatWork.org

For more information, please contact Steve Hopcraft at 916/457-5546 or email to steve@hopcraft.com