

Acknowledgments

Though the research section of the Bureau of Research and Education bears final responsibility for the production of this report, input from division management and external process partners has been helpful in directing us to topics and issues of general concern. We particularly thank everyone who responded to our annual survey used to identify policy issues most in need of objective research.

Outside the Bureau of Research and Education, several individuals contributed to the Administration section of this report. Nancy Terrel, an attorney with the Office of General Counsel, Department of Labor and Employment Security, provided the material for the article on case law. Laura Taylor, Policy Coordinator and an attorney with the division, wrote the legislative update. Evelyn Vlasak, an actuary with the Bureau of Operations Support, provided financial information used in the article on assessments and funding. Julie Douthit, formerly Executive Director of the Workers' Compensation Oversight Board, wrote the article updating the activities of that board. Kathie Hughes of the Office of Labor Market Statistics offered invaluable assistance in utilization of data from the ES202 file of employers covered by the Florida Unemployment Compensation program. Bob Pannell, Michelle Oxman, and John Megic of the Agency for Health Care Administration provided valuable criticism of an initial draft of the chapter on managed care.

Within the research section, the shared duties of reviewing and editing, critical though inglorious, are here indicated rather than individually credited. Ma-

For individual contributions include the following. Barbara Smith, a management analyst, and Bobbie J. Scott, a staff assistant, compiled the appendices. Xiaoyuan Zhu, Research Associate, produced the tables and figures in the statistical supplement and did the painstaking document layout for all three volumes of the annual report. Gary Sabitsch, Research Associate, helped to finalize the articles on fraud and case law, wrote portions of the summary bullets for the statistical supplement, and contributed to the statutory research for the chapter on Permanent Total disability. Will Sherman, a programmer-analyst with the research section, generated some of the information used in the Trends and Challenges chapters and kept the data machinery working unobtrusively in the background. Duncan Hoehn, a senior researcher, produced the chapter on Florida's Drug-Free Workplace Program. Katy Harris, a senior researcher, wrote most of the summary bullets for the statistical supplement, updated the article on assessments and funding, and wrote the chapters on the division's Early Intervention Program and the obligation to rehire. Ken Baugh, coordinator of the research section, wrote the chapter on Permanent Total disability. Bobbi Markiewicz, Bureau Chief, prepared the chapter on managed care (along with Ken Baugh) and the articles on division accomplishments and goals.

It is hoped that the information provided in the three volumes of the annual report serves both to inform and to promote the improvement of workers' compensation in Florida.