



## **UNEMPLOYMENT COMPENSATION HEARINGS**

**POSITION:** The Pennsylvania Tourism & Lodging Association supports legislation that would overturn the Harkness unemployment compensation hearing case.

**BACKGROUND:** On February 3, 2005 the Commonwealth Court of Pennsylvania issued a decision in Harkness v. UCBR stating that non-lawyers cannot represent corporate employers in unemployment compensation hearings.

This decision had an immediate harmful financial impact on most PTLA members and other businesses in the state that had either used their internal management, or an outside non-lawyer entity at all UC hearings.

**STATUS:** PTLA scored a major legislative win when Governor Rendell signed Senate Bill 464 into law as Act 15 of 2005 on June 15, 2005. The restoration of the UC appeals procedures that existed prior to the Harkness case saved PTLA members hundreds of dollars in legal expenses that they would have incurred if the court case had not been overturned.