

Charles N. Jeffress
Assistant Secretary of Labor for
Occupational Safety and Health

Charles N. Jeffress, Assistant Secretary of Labor for Occupational Safety and Health, has spent the past 20 years working on labor and workplace issues. Prior to his nomination by President Clinton to head the Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA), Mr. Jeffress was Deputy Commissioner and Director of OSHA at the North Carolina Department of Labor. From 1992 until 1997, he supervised North Carolina OSHA enforcement, consultation, education and training activities.

Sworn in as Assistant Secretary on Nov. 12, 1997, Mr. Jeffress now directs a staff of more than 2,200 with a budget of \$336 million. His goal is to reduce injuries, illnesses, and fatalities among the more than 100 million workers at six million worksites that come under OSHA's jurisdiction. Mr. Jeffress is committed to continuing the Clinton Administration's reinvention of OSHA through a five-year strategic plan to increase the agency's effectiveness in improving workplace safety and health. Chief among his priorities are establishing a standard for safety and health programs and a standard on ergonomics.

From 1977 to 1992, Mr. Jeffress served as Assistant Commissioner of the North Carolina Department of Labor, focusing on program management, government affairs and policy development. He served as the chief legislative lobbyist for the department with the state legislature and advised the Commissioner on issues relating to occupational safety and health, employment standards and job training, and personnel.

He holds a Bachelor of Arts degree from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. He is a 1980 graduate of the Government Executives Institute at the UNC-Chapel Hill School of Business Administration and a 1990 graduate of the Program for Senior Executives in Government at the John F. Kennedy School of Government at Harvard University.