The 34th Annual National Institute on

ERISA Basics

October 16-18, 2019

American Bar Association
321 North Clark Street
Chicago, IL 60654

Early Bird Registration: September 18th
Hotel Reservations Deadline: September 24th

Register On-line: www.americanbar.org/jceb
(202) 662-8676

15.00 CLE Credit Hours have been requested from 60-minute states
18.00 CLE Credit Hours have been requested from 50-minute states
Including 1.00 CLE Credit Hour of Ethics
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Suzanne Metzger, 1199SEIU Benefit Funds, New York, NY

Jeffrey Monhart, U.S. Department of Labor, Chicago, IL

Radha Pathak, Stris & Maher, Los Angeles, CA

Aliya Robinson, Program Co-Chair, The ERISA Industry Committee (ERIC), Washington, DC

Joanne Roskey, Program Co-Chair, Government Attorney, Washington, DC

Cecilia Scanlon, Baum Sigman Auerbach & Neuman, Ltd., Chicago, IL

Lisa Serebin, Creitz & Serebin LLP, San Francisco, CA

Amanda Sonneborn, Seyfarth Shaw, Chicago, IL

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Simon Torres, Pension Benefit Guaranty Corporation, Washington, DC

Carolyn Trenda, McGuireWoods LLP, Chicago, IL

Thomas Tso, Pension Benefits Security Division, U.S. Department of Labor, Washington, DC

Dorothy A. Voigt, Law Offices of Dorothy A. Voigt, Elgin, IL

David M. Weiner, Willis Towers Watson, Chicago, IL

Jeanne Klinefelter Wilson, Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary, Employee Benefits Security Administration, U.S. Department of Labor, Washington, DC
WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 16, 2019

8:00-
8:30  Registration and Networking Continental Breakfast (*Non-CLE*)

8:30-
8:45  WELCOMING REMARKS AND OVERVIEW OF PROGRAM (*Non-CLE*)
  Program Co-Chairs:
  Cassie Springer Ayeni, Springer Ayeni, APLC
  Benjamin Eisner, Spear Wilderman, PC
  Joanne Roskey, Government Attorney

8:45-
9:35  ERISA BASICS CONCEPTS – STATUTORY OVERVIEW
  This session will provide a high-level overview of ERISA, including what is a plan, what is a plan fiduciary, what is a plan sponsor, and who is an employee. It also will discuss the differences between the types of pension plans and types of welfare benefit plans.
  Cassie Springer Ayeni, Springer Ayeni, APLC
  Benjamin Eisner, Spear Wilderman, PC
  Joanne Roskey, Office of the Solicitor, U.S. Department of Labor

9:35-
10:25  MINIMUM STANDARDS FOR TAX-QUALIFIED RETIREMENT PLANS – PART I
  The Internal Revenue Code requires that a retirement plan meet minimum standards to be qualified in order for employers and employees to receive tax benefits related to participation in employee benefit plans. This session will introduce and explore those standards, outlining the complicated rules with which employers and plans must comply to establish a tax qualified plan. It also will provide an opportunity to delve deeper into the qualification standards for retirement plans and to discuss with experienced practitioners any issues related to compliance with these standards. In Part I, the focus will be types of plans and plan formulas, definition of employee, calculating service, participation and coverage, minimum coverage testing, vesting, forfeitures, plan loans, IRS determination process, and defined contribution nondiscrimination testing rules.
  Al Holifield, Holifield, Janich & Ferrera, PLLC
  Ginger LaChapelle, Blitman & King LLP

10:25-
10:40  Morning Break (*Non-CLE*)

10:40-
11:40  MINIMUM STANDARDS FOR TAX-QUALIFIED RETIREMENT PLANS – PART II
  Continuing the broad introduction to the rules for Qualified Plans under the Internal Revenue Code, in Part II, the focus will be benefit accrual rules, benefit limitations, defined benefit nondiscrimination testing rules, minimum funding rules, timing of benefit payments, forms of benefit payments and taxation of benefits. Attendees will have an opportunity to discuss issues with experienced practitioners.
  Al Holifield, Holifield, Janich & Ferrera, PLLC
  Ginger LaChapelle, Blitman & King LLP
11:40-12:40  GOVERNMENT ENFORCEMENT—Reporting and Disclosure
ERISA imposes extensive reporting and disclosure requirements. In this session you will hear from the Department of Labor and practitioners regarding the requirements of plan reporting, and what must be included for compliance with ERISA’s regulatory scheme.

Moderator: Joanne Roskey, Office of the Solicitor, U.S. Department of Labor
Ruben Chapa, Office of the Solicitor, U.S. Department of Labor
Victoria Cosentino, U.S. Department of Labor

12:40-2:00  LUNCHEON ADDRESS (Non-CLE)
Jeanne Klinefelter Wilson, Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary, Employee Benefits Security Administration, U.S. Department of Labor

2:00-3:00  GOVERNMENT ENFORCEMENT—Agency Programs and Investigations
In the second session regarding Government Enforcement of ERISA we will hear from Department of Labor representatives regarding the Department’s enforcement program. Panelists will cover how the Department has structured the enforcement program and how the Department conducts investigations. Panelists also will comment on current Department enforcement priorities and initiatives.

Ruben Chapa, Office of the Solicitor, U.S. Department of Labor
Jeffrey Monhart, U.S. Department of Labor

3:00-3:50  FEDERAL REGULATION OF HEALTH PLANS
This session will address federal employee welfare benefit plan regulation, including the Affordable Care Act, COBRA, ADA, GINA and other statutes and regulations. This session also will focus on the reporting and disclosure requirements that generally apply to ERISA- governed health plans, including ACA reporting issues.

Edward Bogle, U.S. Department of Labor (invited)
Denise M. Clark, Clark Law Group, PLLC
Ada Dolph, Seyfarth Shaw
Rhona S. Lyons, Schuchat Cook & Werner

3:50-4:05  Afternoon Break (Non-CLE)

4:05-5:05  ERISA PREEMPTION
This session will introduce the fundamental principles of ERISA preemption, the impact preemption has on other legislation related to employee benefit plans and the exceptions to preemption the statute permits. It will detail how ERISA preemption has changed since the statute’s inception, and discuss its current effect on state plan regulation.

Marie E. Casciari, DeBofsky Sherman Casciari Reynolds, P.C.
Angel Garrett, Trucker Huss, APC
Megan Hansen, Office of the Solicitor, U.S. Department of Labor
Rhona S. Lyons, Schuchat Cook & Werner

5:00  Adjourn followed by a Networking Reception (Non-CLE)
THURSDAY, OCTOBER 17, 2019

8:00-8:30 Registration and Networking Continental Breakfast (Non-CLE)

8:30-9:30 FIDUCIARY STANDARDS – PART I
This session will introduce ERISA’s complex definition of fiduciary and discuss ERISA’s fiduciary duties. It also will discuss the responsibilities entailed in investing plan assets, and the difference between a plan sponsor and plan fiduciary.
Lisa Serebin, Creitz & Serebin LLP
Peter Dickinson, Bush Gottlieb, LC
Hillary August, Morgan, Lewis & Bockius LLP
Thomas Tso, U.S. Department of Labor

9:30-10:30 FIDUCIARY STANDARDS – PART II
Continuing from session one, this session will provide an overview of prohibited transactions, a technical ERISA concept, as well as an overview of remedies for fiduciary breaches. This session also will provide pointers for compliance with the ERISA’s mandates and, time permitting, will touch on hot topics in ERISA fiduciary and class action litigation.
Lisa Serebin, Creitz & Serebin LLP
Peter Dickinson, Bush Gottlieb, LC
Hillary August, Morgan, Lewis & Bockius LLP
Thomas Tso, U.S. Department of Labor

10:30-10:45 Morning Break (Non-CLE)

10:45-11:35 BENEFIT CLAIMS – PART I: ADMINISTRATIVE PROCEDURES
ERISA requires and prescribes extensive procedures for the internal processing of claims and appeals. A near-universal prerequisite to bringing suit when benefit claims are denied is the pre-suit appeal required by 29 U.S.C. § 1133. This program will cover the statutory basis for pre-suit appeals, when such appeals may be excused, and the rules and regulations governing pre-suit appeals.
Rebecca K. Bryant, Ogletree, Deakins, Nash, Smoak & Stewart, PC
Cecilia Scanlon, Baum Sigman Auerbach & Neuman, Ltd.
Ruth Silver Taube, Silver & Taube

11:35-12:35 BENEFIT CLAIMS – PART II: LITIGATION OVERVIEW
Not all claims are resolved internally. This program will cover topics arising in the litigation of employee benefit claims, including basic civil procedure, the availability of juries, discovery, evidentiary considerations, and disposition of claims. This program will then address what occurs when suit is filed for benefits under an ERISA plan, including exhaustion, evidence the district court may consider, the judicial standards of review applied in benefit claims litigation, and the doctrine of conflict of interest. The panel will address procedural issues and strategies to be considered by both the claimant and the plan/plan sponsor in the review process and in litigation.
Michael Bartolic, The Law Offices of Michael Bartolic, LLC
Rebecca K. Bryant, Ogletree, Deakins, Nash, Smoak & Stewart, PC
Cecilia Scanlon, Baum Sigman Auerbach & Neuman, Ltd.
12:35-
1:45 Lunch (On Your Own) *(Non-CLE)*

1:45-
2:45 **DISCRIMINATION IN AND INTERFERENCE WITH EMPLOYEE BENEFITS**

The breadth of protections under ERISA, the Affordable Care Act, Title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, the Americans with Disabilities Act, as amended, and the Age Discrimination in Employment Act has been enlarged by recent regulatory actions of the EEOC, HHS, and DOL. This session will review potential claims in litigation, including interference with an employee’s employment relationship with the specific intent of interfering with her attainment of benefits or future rights under a plan, and retaliation against an employee for utilizing her benefit rights or for complaining about violations of ERISA. Discrimination in the provision of benefits or in access to health care, with a particular focus on denial of access on the basis of disability, sex, and sexual orientation also will be addressed. Additionally, the session will review how ERISA overlaps with other federal employment statutes when employees assert that employers have misclassified them under the Fair Labor Standards Act or have altered their terms and conditions of employment in order to avoid mandated benefits or statutory penalties under the Affordable Care Act.

**Jennie Arnold, Ledbetter, Parisi LLC**

**Denise M. Clark, Clark Law Group, PLLC**

**Hillary E. August, Morgan, Lewis & Bockius LLP**

2:45-
3:00 **Afternoon Break (Non-CLE)**

3:00-
4:00 **REMEDIES**

ERISA remedies have been a vigorously contested battle ground, especially in the wake of *Cigna Corp. v. Amara*, which reinvigorated the debate over the scope of “appropriate equitable relief” under ERISA § 502(a)(3), 29 U.S.C. § 1132(a)(3). This panel will provide a brief overview on the types of remedies available under ERISA’s major enforcement provisions, and then focus on remedies in the post-*Amara* world. Topics will include recent and pending cases on the scope of monetary relief under § 502(a)(3) as well as plan terms limiting the availability of equitable remedies.

**Jennie Arnold, Ledbetter, Parisi LLC**

**Karen Handorf, Cohen Milstein Sellers & Toll PLLC**

**Stacey Cerrone, Proskauer Rose LLP**

**Megan Hansen, Office of the Solicitor, U.S. Department of Labor**

4:00-
5:00 **ERISA ETHICAL ISSUES AND CONCERNS: BASICS AND ETHICS IN A DIGITAL WORLD (ETHICS SESSION)**

This session will focus on key ethical rules and principles that should be considered by ERISA practitioners. Specific topics will include the identification of the client(s), the scope of ethical duties to clients and non-clients, the creation and consequences of multiple representations and related conflicts of interest. Additional potential topics may include the lawyer’s duty to report wrongdoing of constituents in an organization, special ethical standards applicable to preparing tax opinions, rules applicable to multi-jurisdictional practice, and the attorney-client privilege (and related fiduciary exception) and attorney work product doctrine. Panelists will also address ethics concerns when using the internet and other technology, including blogging, commenting on community websites, advertising, social media, and website representations.

**Tybe A. Brett, Feinstein Doyle Payne & Kravec, LLC**

**Benjamin Eisner, Spear Wilderman, PC**

**Simon Torres, Pension Benefit Guaranty Corporation**

5:00 Adjourn
FRIDAY, OCTOBER 18, 2019 **AM CONCURRENT BREAKOUT SESSIONS**

8:00-
8:30  Registration and Networking Continental Breakfast** *(Non-CLE)*

8:30-
9:20  **Option # 1: MULTIEMPLOYER & OTHER COLLECTIVELY BARGAINED PLANS**

A general overview of the special rules and regulations governing multiemployer employee pension and welfare benefit plans under ERISA, including the Multiemployer Pension Plan Amendments Act of 1980, which created ERISA Section 515 for the collection of employer contributions, and which provided for the creation and enforcement of Withdrawal Liability. This panel will also cover the developing law and regulations affecting collectively bargained plans since the Pension Protection Act of 2006.

**William M. Kinney**, Dowd Bloch Bennett Cervone Auerbach & Yokich

**Aliya Robinson**, The ERISA Industry Committee

9:20-
10:10  **Option # 2: SPOUSAL RIGHTS UNDER ERISA PLANS: QDROs, AND QMCSOs**

The benefits provided by employee benefit plans generally may not be alienated. This session will address the exceptions to this broad rule, introducing the basics of QDRO’s, QMCSOs, and other spousal and related rights. The panelists will also discuss the rights of same-sex spouses following the *Windsor* and *Obergefell* decisions as well as the requirements that must be met before Court or other orders that alienate a participants’ pension in a divorce situation can be honored, as well as requirements for providing employer sponsored group medical benefits to dependents in a divorce or other child support situation. It will also discuss the employers’ and plans’ responsibility for enforcing such orders.

**Robert Gower**, Trucker Huss, APC

**Suzanne Metzger**, 1199SEIU Benefit Funds

**Dorothy A. Voigt**, Law Offices of Dorothy A. Voigt

10:10-
10:30  Morning Break *(Non-CLE)*
10:30-
11:20  **Option # 1: SUBROGATION AND REIMBURSEMENT CLAIMS**
Overpayment of benefit claims and efforts by plans to recover overpaid money have been the topic of
several Supreme Court decisions that have informed practitioners about equitable remedies and the
reach of ERISA preemption. The session will discuss the developing law of subrogation and plan
reimbursement, including plan self-help remedies and plaintiff responses to collection efforts.
**Radha Pathak, Stris & Maher**
**Amanda Sonneborn, Seyfarth Shaw**

11:20  **Option # 2: CAFETERIA PLANS AND OTHER FRINGE BENEFITS**
This session will discuss the uses of cafeteria plans and explain the complex issues involved in
establishing plans compliant with the Internal Revenue Code. Additionally, employees are increasingly
expecting that their employers will offer more programs addressing these issues. This panel will discuss
behavioral health benefit trends, including wellness programs, mental health benefits and
EAPs, including the current rules and how to design compliant, effective benefit programs.
**David M. Weiner, Willis Towers Watson**
**Suzanne Metzger, 1199SEIU Benefit Funds**

11:20  Adjourn
WHO SHOULD ATTEND?
For practitioners who address issues related to employee benefit plans, this 2 1/2-day National Institute will provide an opportunity to hear from the ERISA experts. Designed for in-house and union counsel, benefits specialists, private practitioners, litigators, and consultants, the focus is on comprehensive ERISA topics.

TUITION
Attend the entire two and half-day program, each breakfast, and the reception, and network with other registrants and faculty. Registrations must be postmarked, e-mailed or faxed by September 18th to receive the discount.

Early Bird Registration - On or Before September 18th
- $1150 General Public
- $1035 ABA Member
- $920 Sponsoring Section Member

Full Tuition - After September 18th
- $1213 General Public
- $1092 ABA Member
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On-Site Tuition
- $1275 General Public
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ADDITIONAL SAVINGS
- Register 2 or more people from the same organization and receive $50 reduction to the tuition rate indicated.
- Purchase the Employee Benefits Passport or are a current Employee Benefits Passport holder, receive 25% reduction to the tuition rate indicated.

For details or to receive the discounts, contact Mary.Karounos@americanbar.org.

SCHOLARSHIPS
A limited number of scholarships to defray tuition expenses are available for this program on case-by-case basis. Qualifying attorneys will receive at least a 50% reduction in the course fee(s). Preference will be given to full-time LL.B. candidates. Scholarship applications must be received in the ABA offices no later than thirty days prior to the program presentation. You will be notified prior to the program if your application is approved. To request an application or receive additional information, contact Mary Karounos at 202.662.8676 or Mary.Karounos@americanbar.org.
UNABLE TO ATTEND?
A digital audio set (course material and digital audio recordings via download) will be available for purchase approximately 4-6 weeks after the program. To pre-order your digital copy, refer to the order form at the end of this brochure. *The content of this audio set does not meet requirements for continuing legal education (CLE) accreditation. You will not receive CLE credit for the ERISA Basics National Institute Digital Audio Set."

Contact Mary.Karounos@americanbar.org for additional information.

MCLE
This course is expected to qualify for 15.83 CLE credit hours (including 1.00 ethics hours) in 60-minute states, and 19.00 CLE credit hours (including 1.20 ethics hours) in 50-minute states. This transitional program is approved for both newly admitted and experienced attorneys in NY. Attorneys may be eligible to receive CLE credit through reciprocity or attorney self-submission in other states. View MCLE details https://www.americanbar.org/events-cle/mcle/inpersonevents/

For more information about CLE accreditation in your state, visit the program website https://www.americanbar.org/events-cle/mtg/inperson/376969259/, the MCLE website http://www.americanbar.org/cle/mandatory_cle.html or contact Mary Karounos at 202.662.8676, via email at mary.karounos@americanbar.org.

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Recommended CPE Credits and Fields of Study: Program attendees can earn up to 19.00 CPE credits in Specialized Knowledge including 1.00 CPE credit in Behavioral Ethics fields of study.

Prerequisites: None; Advanced Preparation: None; Program Level: Intermediate; Delivery Method: Group-Live.

QUESTIONS?
If you have a specific question that you want answered, you can email it up to the day before the program to Mary.Karounos@americanbar.org, or ask the speakers directly during the program presentation.

SERVICES FOR PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES
If special arrangements are required, please contact Mary Karounos at 202.662.8676 or Mary.Karounos@americanbar.org. Reasonable advance notice is requested.
CANCELLATION POLICY
Cancellations will be honored on the following basis:
• On or before September 18th—100% Refund minus $50 administrative fee
• After September 18th—No Refund**
Substitute registrants are welcome. Please contact customer care via email meetingcancellations@americanbar.org.

*“Day of Cancellation” is the day the cancellation is received, by telephone or in writing, by the ABA.
**No refunds will be made for cancellation requests received after September 18th; written confirmation of refund requests must be received within 14 days following the National Institute presentation.

COMPLAINT RESOLUTIONS
Please contact Mary Karounos at 202.662.8676.

PROGRAM CONFIRMATION
Written confirmation of your registration will be e-mailed to you. Please bring it with you to the National Institute as proof of registration. If you do not receive the confirmation notice prior to the program, call the ABA at 202.662.8676 to confirm that your registration was received and the program is being held as scheduled.

HOTEL INFORMATION
DEADLINE FOR HOTEL RESERVATIONS: SEPTEMBER 24

Kinzie Hotel
Twenty West Kinzie Street, Chicago, IL 60654

We have a limited number of rooms blocked with the Kinzie Hotel at a special rate of $229 for single or double occupancy. All room rates are subject to city occupancy and sales tax. Unclaimed rooms will be released on September 24th after which the hotel will accept reservations on a space and rate available basis only. All reservations must be guaranteed with a major credit card.

If you are interested in booking a reservation at the Kinzie Hotel please contact the hotel directly at 312.395.9000 and refer to the Joint Committee on Employee Benefits.
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  ABA #

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