

BENEFIT NEWS BRIEFS

DOL to Host Free Compliance Assistance Webcast on COBRA Premium Subsidy on Tuesday March 24, 2009

The Department of Labor (DOL) will be joined by the U.S. Department of the Treasury (Treasury) and the Internal Revenue Service (IRS) to discuss the new COBRA subsidy provisions and provide assistance in complying with the new requirements, including the model notices and the tax credit. Information about the webcast is posted on the DOL's main COBRA premium subsidy page at: <http://www.dol.gov/ebsa/COBRA.html>.

According to the DOL, this webcast is an opportunity for employers, third party administrators and carriers who are trying to comply with the new COBRA provisions to hear from the federal regulators and to ask them questions about the new law.

Event Date: Tuesday, March 24, 2009, 11:30AM Eastern Daylight Time

Audience members may arrive 15 minutes prior to this time

You can register for the webcast on DOL's main COBRA premium subsidy page at: <http://www.dol.gov/ebsa/COBRA.html> under the section entitled: **Compliance Webcasts, Seminars and Workshops**.

Once you register, you should use the "Test Your System" link to check your computer's resource level.

Readers can keep abreast of COBRA premium subsidy developments on the DOL webpage at <http://www.dol.gov/ebsa/COBRA.html> and the IRS webpage at <http://www.irs.gov/newsroom/article/0,,id=204505,00.html>.

MODERATORS (redacted biographies):

Patricia Humphlett is the Coordinator of the DOL's Retirement Savings Education Campaign. As the Coordinator, she oversees the Department's fiduciary education campaign, a nationwide effort to improve workers' retirement security by educating employers and service providers about their fiduciary responsibilities under ERISA. Ms. Humphlett received her J.D. from George Washington University Law School and her B.A. from Duke University.

Kevin Horahan is a Senior Employee Benefits Law Specialist in the Office of Health Plan Standards and Compliance Assistance for the Employee Benefits Security Administration (EBSA). He has worked for the DOL since 2002. Mr. Horahan received his B.S. from Rutgers' Bloustein School of Planning and Public Policy, a Master of Public Health from George Washington University, and his J.D. from the Catholic University of America's Columbus School of Law.

SPEAKERS (redacted biographies):

Kevin Knopf has been an Attorney-Adviser in the Office of Tax Policy at the Treasury since 1987. He joined the Office of Benefits Tax Counsel within the Office of Tax Policy in 1992. Mr. Knopf is a graduate of the University of Iowa, 1982 (B.S. Psychology); J.D. with distinction Georgetown University Law Center, 1985; Masters of Law in Taxation, 1988; and a member of the Bar in Iowa and the District of Columbia.

Russell Weinheimer has worked in the Office of Chief Counsel at the IRS since 1991. He has been the staff attorney primarily responsible for interpreting the COBRA health care continuation coverage requirements since he began working for the IRS. He graduated magna cum laude from the J. Reuben Clark Law School at Brigham Young University.

Amy Turner is Senior Advisor and Special Projects Manager in the Office of Health Plan Standards and Compliance Assistance. Ms. Turner is responsible for managing health plan regulations and other interpretive guidance under Title I of ERISA, as well as coordinating interpretive and implementation activities with other Federal and State agencies. Ms. Turner joined EBSA in 1996. Prior to that, she worked in the DOL's Office of the Solicitor, Plan Benefits Security Division. Ms. Turner is a graduate of Cornell University's School of Industrial and Labor Relations and George Washington University Law School.

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