

# Labor & Employment Law Legislative & Legal Update

Presented by: Kevin M. McCarthy



We're proud to offer a full-circle solution to your HR needs. BASIC offers collaboration, flexibility, stability, security, quality service and an experienced staff to meet your integrated HR, FMLA and Payroll needs.

#### HR Solutions Come Full Circle





HR solutions should be simple. **Keep it BASIC.** 

BASIC's integrated HR solutions come full circle for employers nationwide.
Consistently recognized as an Inc. 5,000 Fastest Growing Private Company, our expertise allows you to control costs, manage risks and improve staff focus and effectiveness.

# Federal Legislative Changes



Nothing – absolutely nothing

# Federal Legislative Proposals



- Healthy Families Act
  - 7 Mandatory Sick Days/Year
- Proposed ACA Amendment
  - Change the Definition of "Full-time" to 40 Hours/Week

# Federal Agency Regulatory Changes



- NLRB "Quickie" or "Ambush" Election Rules
  - Unions already winning 69% of elections

 NLRB Coordinates Investigations with OSHA & **WHD** 

# Federal Regulatory Changes, con't



- EEOC & FTC Issue "Best Practices" on Background Checks
- EEOC Guidance on Pregnancy Accommodation
- FMLA Definition of "Spouse" Altered
- ACA 90-day Waiting Period Can Be 120 Days

# Federal Agency Proposed Regulatory Changes



Revised FLSA Exemption Rules Due Soon

 Contractors & Subs Will Have to Submit Equal Pay Reports (8/16/14 Proposed Rule; Comment Period Ended 1/5/15)

#### **Executive Orders**



#### Federal Contractors

- Bidders Must Disclose "Labor Law Violations" Starting with 2016 Contracts "Fair Play & Safe Workplaces" E.O.)
- For Certain Contractors, Minimum Wage of \$10.10/Hour, with COLA Adjustments Annually after 1/1/2016 (E.O. 13658; Final Rule 6/12/14); Effective 1/1/15
- May Not Discriminate on Basis of Sexual Orientation or Gender Identity (E.O. 13672; Final Rule 12/3/14)

# Michigan Legislative Changes



 Private Employers Veterans' Preference Policy Act

Minimum Wage Increased

$$-1/1/16$$
 \$8.50

$$-1/1/17$$
 \$8.90

$$-1/1/18$$
 \$9.25

# Likely Proposed Legislation



- Prohibition of Sexual Orientation or Gender Identity Discrimination
- "Ban the Box" Legislation

#### Court Decisions – EEO Cases



Hobby Lobby – Religious Freedom Restoration Act
 Protects Closely Held Companies (U.S. Supreme Ct.)

ADAAA Definition of "Disability" Examined –
 Summers v Altarum Instrument (4<sup>th</sup> Cir.)

 Alcoholic Truck Driver Not Qualified for His Job under the ADA – Jarvalo v Crete Carrier (11<sup>th</sup> Cir.)

#### Court Decisions – EEO Cases



- Burden on Employee to Prove Reasonable
   Accommodation Request Made Parsons v Auto
   Club Group (6<sup>th</sup> Cir.)
- Psychological Evaluation Must be Supported by Evidence of Inability to Perform Essential Functions or Direct Threat to Safety – Kroll v White Lake Ambulance Authority (6<sup>th</sup> Cir.)
- EEOC Attacking Wellness Programs That Include Rewards/Penalties

#### Court Decisions – FMLA Cases



- Use of Regular Mail for FMLA Notices May Not Be Sufficient – Lupyan v Corinthian Colleges (3d Cir.)
- Caretaking of Mother on a Vegas Trip Protected under FMLA – Ballard v Chicago Park District (7<sup>th</sup> Cir.)

 Employee Reinstated without Back Pay Not Qualified under FMLA – Ouellette v Fountainview of Monroe (E.D. Mich.)

#### Court Decisions – FLSA Cases



- Supreme Court Finds Post-shift Security Screening Time to Be Non-compensable – Integrity Staffing v Busk (U.S. Supreme Court)
- Domestic Caregiver Regulations Vacated Home Care Association of America v Weil (D.D.C.)

#### **NLRB** Decisions



- Rule Prohibiting "Discourteous or Inappropriate
   Attitude or Behavior" Illegal under the NLRA First
   Transit, Inc.
- Nondisclosure Rule Found to Violate NLRA Fresh
   & Easy Neighborhood Market
- Micro-bargaining Unit Rule Applied Macy's, Inc. and Neiman Marcus Group

## NLRB Decisions, con't



 Purple Communications – Employees Organizing a Union May Be Able to Use the Employer's E-mail System to Communicate about the Election

#### **Other Cases**



- Former Employer's Non-Competition Cease & Desist Letter to New Employer Not Illegal – Bonds v Philips Electronic North America (E.D. Mich.)
- Contract Non-renewal Not an Adverse Employment Action under the WPA – Wurtz v Beecher Metropolitan District (Mich. Supreme Court)
- Medical Marijuana User Not Disqualified from Unemployment Compensation Benefits - Braska v Challenge Manufacturing (Mich. Ct. App.)

# Other Cases, con't



 MEA's Window Period for Withdrawal from Union Illegal – Saginaw Education Association (MERC ALJ)

Fair Credit Reporting Act Cases Proliferate







We're proud to offer a full-circle solution to your HR needs. BASIC offers collaboration, flexibility, stability, security, quality service and an experienced staff to meet your integrated HR, FMLA and Payroll needs.





# Kevin M. McCarthy Warner Norcross & Judd LLP 401 E. Michigan Ave. Kalamazoo, MI 49007 kmccarthy@wnj.com

20

## Contact Us





HR solutions should be simple. **Keep it BASIC.** 



800.444.1922 sales@basiconline.com www.basiconline.com

# BASIC's Award Winning Services



Request a price quote or proposal for one or more of BASIC's services.

- FMLA
- FSA / HRA / HAS
- COBRA
- Payroll
- Absence Management

Learn more about BASIC's Employer Compliance Services

- ERISA Essentials
- HIPAA Privacy and Security
- Labor Law Posters

### Disclaimer





This presentation is designed to provide accurate information in regard to the subject matter covered. It is provided with the understanding that BASIC is not engaged in rendering legal or other professional services. If legal advice or other expert assistance is required, the services of a competent attorney or other professional person should be sought. Due to the numerous factual issues which arise in any human resource or employment question, each specific matter should be discussed with your attorney.