

You're Invited...

**Teleconference Briefing:
Benefit Plan Administration in Hurricane Disaster Areas**

Tuesday, September 27, 2005

1:00 p.m. Central Time

(2:00 p.m. Eastern; Noon Mountain; 11:00 a.m. Pacific)

In the weeks since Hurricane Katrina devastated the Gulf Coast, both the IRS and the Department of Labor have issued guidance allowing employers to ease some of the restrictions applicable under their benefit plans to make recovery easier for residents of the affected area. *Although the current government guidance deals only with areas affected by Hurricane Katrina, it may be expanded if widespread damage is also caused by Hurricane Rita.*

The Seyfarth Shaw Employee Benefits Practice Group is holding a conference call to discuss areas of concern in employee benefits administration relating to Hurricane Katrina. The conference call will be held on Tuesday, September 27 and will not exceed one hour. We hope that holding the conference by phone now will let more of our clients be able to get the information they need to assist their affected employees. Senior attorneys from the Practice Group will discuss the available options, including:

- More liberal rules for loans and hardship withdrawals from 401(k) plans.
- Allowing employees to either donate their leave time to affected employees, or donate the value of their leave to charities for Katrina victims.
- The effect of Katrina on HIPAA and COBRA elections.
- Dealing with missing or displaced participants.

The conference call will also provide for an open discussion, with questions and comments from participants.

The call will begin at 1:00 p.m. CDT and is scheduled to last one hour.

Participation is free, but prior registration is required. To register, please visit www.seyfarth.com/events.

If you have any questions, please contact Hannah Lopas at hlopas@seyfarth.com or 312.739.6477.



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