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Thursday, June 16, 2011 • Number 116

LEADING THE NEWS

Labor Law

Democrats Miller, Cummings Call for Delay Or Limits on House Panel's Boeing Hearing

The ranking Democrats on two House committees June 16 told Rep. Darrell Issa (R-Calif.), chairman of the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform, that he should either delay a June 17 hearing on the National Labor Relations Board complaint...

NEWS

Arbitration

Arbitrator Must Decide Arbitrability Of Sheen's Claims, California Court Rules

LOS ANGELES—Actor Charlie Sheen's breach of contract and wrongful termination lawsuit filed against a producer and a studio after he was fired from the hit television sitcom Two and a Half Men must be submitted to an arbitrator to...

Discrimination

Court Denies Meatpacker's Bid to Dismiss EEOC Bias Suit for Somali Muslim Workers

The Equal Employment Opportunity Commission may proceed with a broad discrimination suit against the meatpacking firm JBS Swift & Co. on behalf of black Somali Muslim workers even though the relevant union local is not a party to the suit,...

Federal Employees

OPM Touts Increase in Veterans Hired

The Office of Personnel Management June 15 released a report showing an increase in the hiring of veterans in the federal government last year, despite a decrease in overall hiring....

Federal Employees

Three-Year Agreement Between FAA, NATCA

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Cost \$669 Million More Than Previous Pact

A 2009 collective bargaining agreement between the Federal Aviation Administration and the will cost FAA an estimated \$669 million more than it would have cost to extend a 2006 agreement, according to a report issued June 16 by the Transportation...

Health Care

Obama Administration Denies Employers Will Drop Health Insurance Under Health Law

The head of the federal office that regulates private health insurance told a congressional subcommittee June 15 that the Obama administration does not believe that large numbers of employers will drop employee health insurance once state...

Hotels

UNITE HERE Launches Boycott in Hawaii At Hyatt Regency Waikiki as Bargaining Lags

UNITE HERE Local 5 is set to launch June 17 a consumer boycott of the Hyatt Regency Waikiki in Honolulu where the union represents 500 employees whose collective bargaining agreement expired nearly one year ago, the union announced June 16....

Immigration

Mandatory E-Verify Legislation Unlikely To Clear Senate, Become Law, Opponents Say

Opponents of legislation (H.R. 2164) that would mandate use of the federal government's employment verification system, E-Verify, are confident the bill will not become law, officials with the Service Employees International Union...

International Labor

Canada Contracts Negotiated in April Produced Average Wage Gain of 2.4 Percent

OTTAWA—Major collective bargaining agreements reached in Canada during April produced average base rate wage increases of 2.4 percent, more than double the 1.1 percent average in March, Human Resources and Skills Development Canada...

International Labor

ILO Adopts New Convention On Protection of Domestic Workers

GENEVA—Representatives from governments, labor unions, and employer groups attending the International Labor Organization's annual general assembly meeting in Geneva voted June 16 to adopt a new global convention on the...

International Labor

Solis, Ambassadors Sign Pacts to Protect Workers From Guatemala and Nicaragua

Labor Secretary Hilda Solis and the ambassadors from Guatemala and Nicaragua June 16 signed declarations intended to help the Labor Department protect the rights of Guatemalan and Nicaraguan citizens who work in the United States....

National Origin

EEOC National Origin, Race Case Results in \$125,000 Settlement

RALEIGH, N.C.—Ricoh Americas Corp. has agreed to pay \$125,000 to settle charges that three employees were subjected to harassment based on their national origin and race and were fired after they complained, the Equal Employment Opportunity...

Organizing

House Republicans Revive NLRA Proposal To Eliminate Protection for Union 'Salting'

Six Republican House members June 13 introduced legislation (H.R. 2153) that would amend the National Labor Relations Act to eliminate protection for employees and job applicants who seek or obtain employment as part of a campaign to "salt"...

Pensions

ASPPA, ICI Highlight Advantages Of Broader Use of Electronic Disclosure

Allowing defined contribution pension plans to provide plan disclosure and information in an electronic format would give participants easier access to the information in a more user-friendly format, according to a white paper released...

Public Employees

Chicago Teachers Enter Negotiations After Losing Bargained Wage Increase

CHICAGO—The Board of Education of the Chicago Public Schools voted June 15 to rescind a previously bargained 4 percent wage increase for thousands of district employees, touching off a wave of accusations from unions representing...

Race Discrimination

No Bias in Union's Refusal to Refer Worker In Hiring Hall, Tenth Circuit Determines

A black worker failed to show that race discrimination motivated his union's failure to refer him for employment after it received "no-rehire" letters about him from employers, the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Tenth Circuit...

Religious Discrimination

Fired Jehovah's Witness May Not Proceed With Discrimination Claims, Court Determines

A Michigan rehabilitation assistant and Jehovah's Witness who was fired after missing two meetings scheduled on his days off failed to prove his religious accommodation and retaliation claims under Title VII of the 1964 Civil Rights...

Retail Stores

RWDSU, Macy's Reach Tentative Agreement Covering 4,000 Workers at New York Stores

Macy's and Retail, Wholesale and Department Store Union Local 1-S June 16 announced they have reached a tentative five-year collective bargaining agreement covering more than 4,000 workers at four Macy's department stores in the...

Safety & Health

MSHA to Hold Hearing on Work Area Exams and POV

The Labor Department's Mine Safety and Health Administration will hold an additional public hearing July 12 on its proposed rules regarding work area examinations and pattern of violations, MSHA's deputy assistant secretary for...

Safety & Health

West Virginia Metal Plant Cited Over 'Fine Metal' Blast That Killed Three Workers

The Labor Department's Occupational Safety and Health Administration proposed more than \$150,000 in penalties against AL Solutions Inc.'s West Virginia facility June 14 for a 2010 "fine metal" explosion that killed...

Trade

DOL Reviewing AFL-CIO Submission Alleging Violations of U.S.-Bahrain FTA

The Labor Department's Office of Trade and Labor Affairs in a June 16 Federal Register notice said it has accepted for review an AFL-CIO submission alleging that Bahrain has violated its obligations in the U.S.-Bahrain Free Trade Agreement...

Trade

Members of House, Labor Leaders Oppose Passage of U.S.-Colombian Trade Agreement

Several members of Congress joined with U.S. and Colombian labor leaders June 16 in calling on the Obama administration to delay submitting implementing legislation on the U.S.-Colombia free trade agreement until there is verification...

Wage & Hour

New York City Restaurant Chain to Pay \$5.1 Million in Record State Settlement

NEW YORK—A sandwich restaurant chain based in New York City has agreed to pay \$5.1 million in back wages, damages, and penalties to settle state minimum wage and overtime violations, New York Gov. Andrew M. Cuomo (D) announced June 14....

Workforce Reductions

Lockheed Martin to Cut 1,200 Space Systems Jobs

Lockheed Martin Corp. June 14 announced that one of its subsidiaries, Lockheed Martin Space Systems Co., would eliminate approximately 1,200 jobs by the end of 2011. ...

ALSO IN THE COURTS

Also in the Courts: A Roundup of Recent Labor and Employment Rulings

ECONOMIC NEWS

Unemployment Insurance

**First-Time UI Claims Decrease 16,000
To 414,000 in Latest Week, ETA Reports**

The number of jobless workers filing individual unemployment insurance claims decreased by 16,000 in the week ended June 11 following an increase of 4,000 the preceding week, as revised, according to seasonally adjusted figures released...

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