

# **Third Annual ERISA, Employee Benefits, and Social Insurance National Conference**

## **A Call for Papers**

### **Benefits Law at the Crossroads: Whither U.S Employee Benefits and Social Insurance Law?**

**When:** Friday, March 28, 2014

**Where:** Marquette University School of Law, Milwaukee, WI

**Organized by:** Paul M. Secunda, Professor of Law, Marquette University School of Law,  
[paul.secunda@marquette.edu](mailto:paul.secunda@marquette.edu)

Looking to follow up on the tremendous success of similar conferences at the University of Michigan Business School in 2012 and Washington University Law School in 2011, Marquette University Law School is proud to host the Third Annual ERISA, Employee Benefits, and Social Insurance National Conference on March 28, 2014. The organizing theme this year is: **Benefits Law at the Crossroads: Whither U.S. Employee Benefits and Social Insurance Law.**

Please consider submitting a paper and presentation proposal. The conference is a scholarship development colloquium, so perfectly polished papers are in no way required. Indeed, this is a great opportunity to get some feedback on papers that you are writing. We will consider publishing some papers in a symposium format if enough individuals are interested and we can find a partner Law Journal. The following is a time frame for submitting a proposal and preparing your conference paper:

1. **September 20, 2013.** Please submit an abstract of 200-300 words and/or an outline of up to 3 pages to Paul via email ([paul.secunda@marquette.edu](mailto:paul.secunda@marquette.edu)) and tell Paul which panel(s) your proposal fits within.
2. **October 18, 2013.** Paul will notify people of decisions of acceptance (which will be determined in consultation with past conference organizers). The hope is that if your paper is accepted that you are able to commit to finishing it by March 1, 2014 (at least in some form) and presenting it on March 28, 2014.
3. **March 1, 2014.** Please submit your paper to Paul via email. They will be posted to a conference website (with access restricted to conference attendees) so the panel moderators, other presenters, and attendees can read the paper in advance of the conference.

You may present a paper that you have submitted elsewhere for publication and/or other conferences or symposia. However, the hope is that you have been able to continue to develop your research because this is a scholarship development conference. The one limitation is that you should have not committed to publish the paper in the form in which you will present it at this conference.

If you are not interested in presenting a paper, you may still participate either by offering to be a moderator of a panel or by being part a conference spectator. Everyone is welcome to attend in one of those two roles as well.

**Tentative Panels and Potential Topics Include:**

- **Public Pensions, Bankruptcy and Federalism**
  1. Detroit and Other Municipal Bankruptcies
  2. Role of PBGC in U.S. Bankruptcy Process
  3. International Perspectives of Treatment of Employee Claims in Insolvency
  4. Constitutional Challenges to Public Employment Benefit Reductions
  
- **Emerging Issues Surrounding Implementation of the Affordable Care Act**
  5. The Employer Mandate
  6. Wellness Programs and Their Impact on the Provision of Employer Health Insurance
  7. Health Exchanges: Exit Employers?
  8. Fiduciary, Preemption, Claim Procedures, and Other Regulatory Topics
  9. The Politics of Medicaid Expansion and Medicare Contraction
  
- **Theoretical Challenges to Current Retirement and Benefits Law System**
  10. Consideration of Single Payer Health Insurance Models
  11. Expanding Social Security to Meet Retirement Security Needs
  12. Tax and Economic Issues Surrounding Provisions of Employee Benefits
  13. The On-Going Debate Between DB and DC Pension Plan Models
  14. What's Next for Social Security, Medicare, and Medicaid?
  
- **Emerging ERISA Issues**
  15. Pension "De-Risking" and Transfer of Risk: Annuities, Lump Sums, and Buy-Outs
  16. Who Is a "Fiduciary" for ERISA Purposes These Days?
  17. The Meaning of Amara for ERISA Remedies
  18. The Plight of Multiemployer Plans: Is There A Future Under ACA?
  19. Whither Occupational Pensions- Time to Think of International Pension Funds?
  20. The Development of Annuity Markets to Meet Life Income Needs
  21. The Future of ESOPs
  
- **Other Ideas** – All Ideas and Paper Proposals Are Most Welcome!

**Tentative Agenda:**

March 27<sup>th</sup> – Opening Conference Dinner (participant pays, but dinner organized by conference)

March 28<sup>th</sup> – Conference from 8 am to 5 pm (with breakfast and lunch included) (there is a possibility that there will be a distinguished lunch keynote speaker)

March 29<sup>th</sup> – Farewell Breakfast (for those staying over; participant pays)

**Accommodations and Expenses:** We have a block of hotel rooms at the Milwaukee Hilton (which is walking distance to the law school). The rooms are available at \$125 per night, and are available with an arrival on March 27, 2014 and departure on March 29, 2014. Please say you are a participant at the “Marquette University ERISA Conference.”

Individuals can either take a taxi or shuttle from Milwaukee Mitchell Airport to the Law School/Hotel (10-15 minute trip). Conference participants should plan to pay for transportation and lodging. Breakfast and lunch will be provided the day of the conference. Other meals are on your own, but group of conferees will likely plan dinners together both the night before, and the night of, the conference.

**For further information and for all questions concerning the conference, please contact Paul (paul.secunda@marquette.edu).**