Call for Papers
11th Annual Employee Benefits Symposium


The current economic recession, juxtaposed with the wave of aging and retiring Baby Boomers and the escalating costs of post-retirement health care, has caused many economists, politicians, academics, and others to realize that the current retirement accumulation system does not generally prepare the average American to retire with adequate income streams when they actually retire. This phenomenon includes private employer plans, multi-employer union plans, plans maintained by churches and non-profit organizations, and public sector plans maintained by state and local governments. The entire framework – the delivery by the government of Social Security and Medicare; the reliance on employer-provided retirement and retiree health benefits; and the responsibility for individuals to save – needs to be reevaluated. Both the IRS and the U.S. Department of Labor have entered into the debate, as they discuss lifetime income options within 401(k) plans. Senator Tom Harkin, chairman of the Senate Health, Education, Labor and Pension Committee, has just issued a report entitled “The Retirement Crisis and a Plan to Solve it.” This timely symposium will allow academics, practitioners, economists, and consultants to add their respective proposals to the mix.

Authors and presenters are invited to submit proposal on topics such as the following:

- How ERISA can be amended to bolster the level of benefits provided through employer plans;
- How 401(k) plans can be redesigned to encourage lifetime income options;
- How state and local governments can better fund plans for their public sector workforce;
- How the federal Social Security and Medicare programs can be redesigned to remain solvent; and
- How financial education can be disseminated to individuals so that they make better decisions during retirement.

This symposium will allow these disparate topics to be synthesized into a public policy discussion through academic articles on what can be done for all individuals to have sufficient income to retire.

CALL FOR PAPERS: Authors writing on these topics or others related to the general theme of the symposium, are encouraged to submit a proposal for inclusion. Proposals should include:

- Speakers Name, Title and Firm Affiliation
- Speaker bio
- Speaker contact information (email and phone)
- Title of Paper
- Paper Abstract (150 words or less)

Submission Dates:
- Please submit above materials to Kathryn J. Kennedy at 7kennedy@jmls.edu; 312.987.1418
- Submission deadline for abstracts: October 1, 2012
- Submission deadline for final draft of articles: February 1, 2013
- Symposium date: April 15, 2013

Law Review Published Article: The John Marshall Law Review will review, edit and publish submissions of final articles in the 2013 Spring Symposium issue, subject to its discretion.

FURTHER INFORMATION: For further information, contact Professor Kathryn J. Kennedy, the Director of the Center for Tax Law & Employee Benefits, at 7kennedy@jmls.edu or 312.987.1418.