Rehabilitation Research and Training Center on Employment Policy for Persons with Disabilities

Reframing the Disability Issue for Employers

A Public Policy Forum

July 9, 2008
10 am to 12 pm

Cornell University Government Affairs Office
Hall of States, Room 333
444 North Capitol Street, NW
Washington, DC 20001

This project is funded by the U.S. Department of Education, National Institute on Disability and Rehabilitation Research. Grant Number: H133B040013

Contact Information

Susanne M. Bruyere, Ph.D., Project Director
Employment and Disability Institute
Cornell University
201 ILR Extension Building
Ithaca, New York 14853-3901
Tel: (607) 255-9536 Fax: (607) 255-2763
TTY: (607) 255-2891 Email: smb23@cornell.edu
Web: www.EmploymentPolicyRRTC.org

David C. Stapleton, Ph.D.
Mathematica Policy Research, Inc.
600 Maryland Avenue, SW, Suite 550
Washington, DC 20024
Tel: (202) 484-4224 Fax: (202) 863-1763
Email: dstapleton@mathematica-mpr.com
Web: www.mathematica-mpr.com

Richard V. Burkhauser, Ph.D.
Policy Analysis and Management
Cornell University
125 Martha Van Rensselaer Hall
Ithaca, New York 14853
Tel: (607) 255-2097 Fax: (607) 255-4071
Email: rvb1@cornell.edu
Upcoming Policy Forums

Date TBD - Fall 2008

Topic - TBD

Speakers & Moderators to be determined

Location - TBD

Program Topic

The Rehabilitation Research and Training Center on Employment Policy for Persons with Disabilities is hosting a series of policy forums to explore policy alternatives to promote employment of individuals with disabilities. This forum will focus on the ideas of Assistant Secretary for the Office of Disability Employment Policy, at the US Department of Labor, about how best to frame disability issues for employers. Assistant Secretary Romano will be joined by representatives from the research and employer communities for a lively and interactive discussion.

Speakers

The Honorable Neil Romano, Assistant Secretary, US Department of Labor, Office of Disability Employment Policy - Panelist

Peter Blanck, Syracuse University Professor, Burton Blatt Institute Chairman - Panelist

Michael D. Peterson, Associate General Counsel & Director of Labor & Employment Policy, HR Policy Association - Panelist

Michael J. Eastman, Executive Director, Labor Law Policy U.S. Chamber of Commerce - Panelist

Funding Agency

This Center is funded to Cornell University by the U.S. Department of Education, National Institute on Disability and Rehabilitation Research (Grant No. H133B040013). The content presented does not necessarily represent the policy of the Department of Education, and you should not assume endorsement by the Federal Government (Edgar, 75.620 (b)), nor is it endorsed by Cornell University or the American Association of People with Disabilities.

For more information contact:

Alexis Falise, Administrative Support
Cornell University, Employment and Disability Institute
201 ILR Extension Building
Ithaca, NY 14853-3901

Tel: (607) 255-3921
Email: ac258@cornell.edu
Biographies

Georgetown University Law Center with an emphasis in ERISA and employee benefits, a J.D. from the Tulane University School of Law, a Master of Dispute Resolution from Pepperdine University School of Law, and an undergraduate degree from Weber State University. In 2006, Mr. Peterson was named as a “Top Lawyer under 40 in Dallas” in D Magazine.

Michael J. Eastman joined the U.S. Chamber of Commerce in October 2002 and serves as the organization’s executive director of labor law policy. In this capacity, he works with members of the business community to develop sound labor and employment policy and advocates for that policy before the Congress and administrative agencies.

Eastman focuses on policy related to equal employment opportunity and civil rights, union organizing and collective bargaining, and international labor and employment policy issues.

Before joining the Chamber, Eastman practiced labor and employment law with the law firm of McGuinness Norris & Williams, where he also served as director of government relations for its client the Labor Policy Association. Earlier, he served on the legislative staff of Congressman James P. Moran (D-VA), a senior member of the House Appropriations Committee, and as an associate staff member to the House Budget Committee. In addition, he has policy experience on the state level, having worked for the New Hampshire Legislature.

Eastman earned an undergraduate degree in psychology from Colgate University and a law degree from George Mason University.

Agenda

Reframing the Disability Issue for Employers

Wednesday, July 9, 2008 - 10:00am-12:00pm
Cornell University, Government Affairs Office
Hall of States, Room 333
444 North Capitol Street, NW
Washington, DC 20001

Welcome & Introduction - Facilitator

Susanne M. Bruyère, Cornell University, Employment and Disability Institute

Panel

The Honorable Neil Romano, U.S. Department of Labor, Office of Disability Employment Policy

Peter Blanck, Burton Blatt Institute

Michael D. Peterson, HR Policy Association

Michael J. Eastman, U.S. Chamber of Commerce
Blanck received a Bachelor of Arts from the University of Rochester, a Juris Doctorate from Stanford University, where he was president of the Stanford Law Review, and a Ph.D. from Harvard University. Blanck is a former member of the President’s Committee on Employment of People with Disabilities, and a Senior Fellow of the Annenberg Washington Program, a Fellow at Princeton University’s Woodrow Wilson School, and a Mary Switzer Scholar. Prior to teaching, Blanck practiced law at the Washington D.C. firm Covington & Burling, and served as law clerk to the late Honorable Carl McGowan of the United States Court of Appeals for the D.C. Circuit. Blanck’s books in the area include: The Americans with Disabilities Act and the Emerging Workforce (AAMR, 1998); Employment, Disability, and the Americans with Disabilities Act (Northwestern U. Press 2000); and Disability Civil Rights Law and Policy (with Hill, Siegal & Waterstone) (West, 2003, 2005). In addition, Blanck and Robin Malloy are editors of the Cambridge University Press series Disability Law and Policy.

Michael D. Peterson is an associate with McGuiness & Yager LLP and serves as Associate General Counsel & Director of Labor & Employment Policy to HR Policy Association. His practice focuses on labor relations, employment law, executive compensation, employee benefits, retirement and pension policy. He also represents the Association’s position before Congress and federal agencies and provides substantive support for the Association’s Employee Rights Committee. Before joining McGuiness & Yager, he was a member of Baker & McKenzie’s Labor & Employment Section representing and counseling management in labor and employment matters. In addition to more traditional areas of labor and employment law, Mr. Peterson’s practice includes ERISA litigation. Mr. Peterson is a member of the Texas and Washington D.C. Bars and is admitted to practice law before the United States Supreme Court and several federal appellate and district courts. He received his LL.M. from