

ALERT

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CalChamber Backs Bills to Revise Regulatory Process



SUPPORT

The California Chamber of Commerce is **supporting** legislation that will enable policy-makers to take a more informed role in shaping regulations that

have an impact on California's economy. **SB 396 (Huff; R-Diamond Bar)** and **SB 400 (Dutton; R-Rancho Cucamonga)** will be considered by a Senate policy committee on May 2.

● SB 396 creates an ongoing process to review old regulations and establish a process to keep regulations up to date,

including analysis of costs, relevance and need for updating to become more effective or less burdensome.

● SB 400 adds specific cost and job impacts analysis and an assessment of alternatives during the process of adopting, amending or repealing a regulation.

'Smart Regulations'

The CalChamber supports "smart regulations" that are necessary, cost-effective, fairly enforced and regularly updated to reflect changing conditions and needs.

Currently, California regulations are adopted, reviewed and approved under a system established in 1979 and only

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Business Summit to Feature State Legislative Analyst



Mac Taylor

Legislative Analyst Mac Taylor will be a featured morning speaker at the California Chamber of Commerce Business Summit on June 1 in Sacramento.

The day-long Summit marks its 24th anniversary

this year, offering business owners, CEOs, public affairs staff, local chamber of commerce staff, board members, committee members and many more a look at current policy issues and actions needed to promote certainty for businesses in today's uncertain economy.

Featured speakers at the Summit include Dr. Frank I. Luntz, communications expert, political pollster and bestselling author; and John S. Watson, chairman and CEO of Chevron Corporation.

Governor Jerry Brown and CalChamber Chair S. Shariq Yosufzai will be the featured speakers at the Host Breakfast, which is set for the morning after the Summit.

Mac Taylor

Taylor was appointed to the position of legislative analyst in October 2008, as the fifth person to serve in that capacity since the office was founded in 1941.

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CalChamber Names New Policy Analyst to Focus on Energy, Housing/Land Use Issues



Amy Mmagu

The California Chamber of Commerce has promoted Amy Mmagu to the position of policy analyst, assigned to track and advocate the business perspective on energy, housing

and land use issues.

Since joining the CalChamber staff in 2006 as a legislative assistant, Mmagu has provided support for CalChamber policy advocates in a wide range of areas, including labor and employment, health, education, climate change, energy, and

housing and land use matters.

She also has assisted on workers' compensation, transportation and infrastructure, tourism, telecommunications and international relations/trade.

Before coming to the CalChamber, Mmagu worked for the California Cable and Telecommunications Association. She also worked for a Spanish exporting company in China for three years and was an intern for the U.S. State Department in Peru.

Mmagu earned a B.A. in international relations from California State University, Sacramento, spending one year at the University of Denmark in Copenhagen, studying European politics.

Staff Contact: Marc Burgat

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Labor Law Corner

Construction Firms Must Maintain In-and-Out Time Sheet Records



Dale Louton
HR Adviser

My firm is a construction company and we have always kept time records for our employees, but not in-and-out time records for each period. The practice has been to keep total daily hours worked only. Does this comply with the law?

No, your firm is not in compliance, as in-and-out time records are required by law.

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Home page: www.calchamber.com.*

Requirements

Your firm is subject to the Industrial Welfare Commission Order No. 16-2001 Regulating Wages, Hours and Working Conditions for Certain On-Site Occupations in the Construction, Drilling, Logging and Mining Industries.

Section 6 of Order 16-2001 requires that you keep time records showing when the employee begins and ends each work period. Meal periods, split shift intervals and total daily hours shall also be recorded. Meal periods during which operations cease and authorized rest periods need not be recorded.

Penalties

Section 18 of this Wage Order provides for penalties for non-compliance. Also, keep in mind that you will have difficulty defending a wage claim filed against you if your records are not complete and accurate. When you consider the possibility of meal period penalties, accurate in-and-out time records are extremely important!

The statute of limitations on wage-and-hour audits conducted by the state Labor Commissioner is three years.

Workers' Comp Connection

In addition to penalties called for in the Labor Code and Wage Order, a new development has arisen that could put your firm in financial jeopardy as failure to comply with the records section of the Wage Order could cause your workers'

compensation premiums to increase.

In 2007, the Insurance Commissioner adopted an amendment to the Standard Classification System to clarify that the assignment of high-wage construction or erection classifications are contingent upon the availability of records necessary to reconcile the number of hours worked against actual time cards or time sheets documenting the daily start and stop times for each employee.

This does not create a new requirement; it merely requires compliance with Wage Order No. 16-2001.

Audits

Effective January 1, 2008, the Workers' Compensation Insurance Rating Bureau of California began requiring audits of time records for non-salaried employees, in order to clarify the assignment of dual wage or erection classifications.

If proper time records are not maintained as required by Wage Order No. 16-2001, then your firm will be subject to higher rates imposed by your workers' compensation insurance carrier.

These audits are now being conducted.

The Labor Law Helpline is a service to California Chamber of Commerce preferred and executive members. For expert explanations of labor laws and Cal/OSHA regulations, not legal counsel for specific situations, call (800) 348-2262, or submit your question at www.hrcalifornia.com.

CalChamber-Sponsored Seminars/Trade Shows

More information at
www.calchamber.com/events.

Business Resources

Access to Capital and International Trade Event. Office of State Senator Curren Price. May 6, Culver City.
(213) 745-6656.

AltBuild Expo. May 6-7, Santa Monica.
(310) 390-2930.

Small Business Advantage. Internal Revenue Service. May 18, Webinar.
(916) 974-5281.

Small Business Resource Summit.
U.S. Small Business Administration

Sacramento District Office. May 26, Citrus Heights. (916) 735-1700.

International Trade

IBAglobal Conference & Expo. Pacific Palms Hotel & Conference Center. May 4-5, City of Industry.
(702) 506-0833.

Honduras Is Open for Business. Honduras General Consulate. May 5-6, San Pedro Sula, Honduras.
(213) 632-9568.

World Trade Week Kickoff Breakfast.
Los Angeles Area Chamber of

See Seminars/Tradeshows: Page 4



Encouraging Employees to Walk More Can Improve Health, Add to Bottom Line



Jennifer Slovis, M.D.

Computers, e-mail, the Internet and smart phones have revolutionized the way America does business. Compared to manual typewriters and carbon paper, or pneumatic tubes

that delivered handwritten messages between floors in air-propelled capsules, today's workplace is a technological marvel.

But that technological progress has come with a price. Today's workforce is far more sedentary than the workforce of generations past.

Instead of walking down the hall to confer with a colleague, we send an e-mail or text message. Instead of walking to the reference shelf to look up an obscure fact or figure, we prefer to use the Internet.

The increasingly sedentary lives of our employees have produced a heavier and less healthy workforce. The combination of reduced exercise and increased weight often translates into higher health-care costs and lower productivity.

Making a Difference

America's obesity epidemic has roots that extend far beyond our jobs, but in the workplace, owners and managers can make a difference and help turn the tide. It's as simple as putting one foot in front of the other.

By encouraging employees to walk—on breaks, at lunch, before or after work—you can help them become more fit.

Walking outside or in the hallways, or using the stairs instead of elevators, are small efforts that make a big difference. The specific activity is not important. What matters is getting people up and moving.

As pounds drop off, overall health will improve, often including the ability to

better manage chronic or uncontrolled health conditions. With improved fitness and health comes increased energy, a powerful antidote to the mid-afternoon lethargy that often leads to a slowdown in productivity.

Better Bottom Line

In terms of profit and loss, better health means a better bottom line. Unscheduled absences, studies have shown, cost employers roughly \$3,600 a year per hourly employee.

Additionally, "presenteeism"—when employees are at work but not fully

individuals and families who want to improve their health by walking. We encourage every business to implement a strategy to incorporate exercise in the workplace.

For example, businesses can set up a walking club and encourage employees to walk during their meals and breaks.

Better yet, they can set up several clubs and promote friendly competition. They can encourage employees who can do it to walk to work, and those who can't to park farther from the door every morning.

For employees who take mass transit, is it feasible to get off a stop or two early on their commute and walk the rest of the way?

Moderate Exercise

The "bottom line" is to make moderate exercise part of a regular routine, and realize the health benefits that come from as little as 30 minutes of walking three to four times a week. Employees do come in

various shapes, sizes and physical condition, and we recommend that, before starting an exercise program, each employee check with his or her personal physician.

The benefits of participating in an

exercise program extend beyond improved health and energy.

Employees who walk together develop a camaraderie they might not have experienced otherwise. That camaraderie contributes to teamwork and unity of purpose, and physical fitness brings a more positive outlook on everything we do.

Improved health, camaraderie, teamwork and a more positive outlook benefit the individual, the work unit and the business—a true win-win for all.

Guest Commentary By Jennifer Slovis, M.D.

The "bottom line" is to make moderate exercise part of a regular routine, and realize the health benefits that come from as little as 30 minutes of walking three to four times a week.

productive due to chronic conditions such as high blood pressure or heart disease—can potentially add between \$1,600 and \$3,200 to an employee's health-care costs.

Employees are a company's most important asset. Since they spend about 2,000 hours a year at work, it makes good business sense to help them live healthier and more active lives, which can translate into happier and more productive employees.

Walking Programs

Many community groups, churches and schools offer group walking programs. Kaiser Permanente has established a program called "Every Body Walk!" that encourages walking for better health.

The website, www.everybodywalk.org is a reliable resource for businesses,

Dr. Jennifer Slovis practices internal medicine and is an assistant physician-in-chief at Kaiser Permanente's Oakland Medical Center. She is active in Kaiser's regional "Healthy Eating, Active Living" campaign (HEAL) and in "Live Well, Be Well," the health-care provider's internal workplace-wellness program.

Business Summit to Feature State Legislative Analyst

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In his 30-year career with the office, Taylor has served as program analyst, working in the tax area, authoring reports on state and local spending limits, tax expenditure programs and tax auditing issues.

Taylor also served as section head, managing the General Government section in the office and covering a wide variety of assignments (such as retirement, employee compensation, labor issues and housing).

For 17 years, Taylor was deputy to the previous analyst, Elizabeth Hill, overseeing the work of the K-12 education, higher education, local government, state administration, and the Economic and Taxation sections.

As legislative analyst, Taylor serves as the non-partisan fiscal adviser to both houses of the California Legislature, and oversees the preparation of annual fiscal and policy analyses of the state's budget and programs.

His office also is responsible for preparing impartial analyses of all initiatives and constitutional measures qualifying for the state's ballot.

Taylor earned a bachelor's degree with highest honors in political science from the University of California, Riverside, and a master's degree in public affairs from Princeton University. He serves on the Statewide Leadership Council of the Public Policy Institute of California.

Host Breakfast

Summit attendees have the opportunity to attend the 86th annual, invitation-only breakfast gathering. Invitees include leaders from business, agriculture, education and the military, plus international guests from the consular corps.

A committee of Sacramento business leaders hosts the annual reception and breakfast to spotlight California's role in national and international commerce.

The goal of both events is to provide decision-making leaders in California finance, government, education, agriculture and industry an opportunity to exchange views, establish and renew friendships, and create statewide atmospheres of good will and understanding at the informal setting of a common table.

Business Summit

CalChamber President and CEO Allan Zaremberg will open the Summit with an overview of CalChamber priorities.

Taylor and Watson will be the featured morning speakers; Luntz will present the luncheon address.

Also scheduled during the luncheon are recognitions for local chambers receiving President's Circle awards, the Political Partner of the Year and Small Business Advocate of the Year awards.

Optional afternoon breakout sessions will cover:

- Advocacy Boot Camp 101;
- Political Reforms: Redistricting and Top Two Open Primary;
- Human Resources Issues and Compliance Update;
- International Trade Forum.

Early Bird Deadline: April 29

Summit attendees who register by April 29 qualify for savings of at least 20 percent.

The two-day registration package, including Summit with lunch, the Host Reception and Host Breakfast, is \$220 now, \$275 after April 29. Other registration options are available.

UnitedHealthcare is again the major sponsor of this year's Summit.

Online registration and more information are available at www.calchamber.com/summit.

Staff Contact: Danielle Fournier

Seminars/Trade Shows

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Commerce. May 6, Los Angeles. (213) 580-7569.

Black Markets: The Dark Side of the Global Economy. World Affairs Council. May 9, Sacramento. (916) 691-4713.

National Export Initiative Update with Congressman Farr. Monterey Bay International Trade Association (MBITA). May 18, Monterey. (831) 335-4780.

Export 101. Northern California District Export Council. May 18, San Jose; June 15, Oakland.

Futurallia Kansas City 2011. El Camino College Center for International Trade Development. May 18-20, Kansas City, Missouri. (310) 973-3173.

Labor Law

How to Hire Employees and Reduce Liability. CalChamber. May 12, Webinar. May 25, On Demand. (800) 331-8877.

How to Conduct Effective Performance Evaluations. CalChamber. June 9, Webinar; June 20, On Demand. (800) 331-8877.

Workplace Safety

Heat Illness Prevention—How to Comply with New Rules. CalChamber. May 12, Webinar; May 21, On Demand. (800) 331-8877.



CalChamber

2011 Business Summit

June 1-2, 2011 | Sacramento

BREAKOUT SESSIONS INCLUDE

- Advocacy Boot Camp 101
- Political Reforms: Redistricting and Top Two Open Primary
- HR Issues and Compliance Update
- International Trade Forum

To register visit calchamber.com/Summit11

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CalChamber Luncheon Speakers Spotlight Trade Partnership Opportunities with Chile

As a global leader in multiple areas, California can provide Chile with opportunities for innovation, education and economic growth, Ambassador Fernando Schmidt, Chile's undersecretary for foreign affairs, told guests at the California Chamber of Commerce International Luncheon on April 14.

Chilean Ambassador to the United States Arturo Fermandois joined Ambassador Schmidt in expressing hopes for a successful Chile-California partnership.

Luncheon guests included Assemblymember Henry Perea (D-Fresno) and Assemblymember Joan Buchanan (D-Alamo).

Partnership Plan

Ambassador Schmidt recalled former Governor Edmund G. "Pat" Brown envisioning a Chile-California partnership in the 1960s. The ambassador listened as a child to tales of California and "the different places and marvels that adorned [the] famous state."

The Chile-California Plan was formed in June 2008 when then-Chile President Michelle Bachelet Jeria signed a memorandum of understanding with former

Photos by Megan Wood



Chilean Ambassador to the United States Arturo Fermandois

Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger. That ceremony marked the start of a program called "Chile-California Plan: A Strategic Association for the 21st Century."

The association is based on the joint commitment of Chile and California to



Chilean Ambassador and Undersecretary for Foreign Affairs Fernando Schmidt

develop business opportunities, expand research and teaching in education, and develop projects in different areas that are strategic for both territories: human capital, education in environmental issues,

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Chile-California Council Holds First Working Session

The Chile-California Council met in San Francisco on April 16 for its first working session.

The 25 individuals on the council are from Chile and California representing business, government, academia, the arts, education and science.

The all-day session was opened by Ambassador Fernando Schmidt, Chile's undersecretary for foreign affairs, and the Chilean Ambassador to the United States, Arturo Fermandois. Agustin Huneeus of Quintessa Winery serves as council chair. Susanne Stirling, California Chamber of Commerce vice president of international affairs, also is a council member.

Chile and California have rich



histories and much in common. They share anecdotes of fortune and poverty caused by the Gold Rush. They are natural partners due to geographical similarities, reverse agricultural seasons, and location along the Pacific Rim.

A shared history of cooperation has existed since the 1960s and 1970s within the framework of the Alliance for Progress initiated by the United States. Replacing the assistance model with partnership, both have launched

the plan: Chile-California, a strategic association for the 21st Century.

The three key initiatives are development of human capital, increase in trade and investment opportunities, and promotion of research and development.

The most effective areas for cooperation will be: renewable energies, entrepreneurship and innovation, seismology, astronomy, information technologies, biotechnology, education, culture, agriculture, green initiatives, tourism, motion picture industry, water resource management, infrastructure, and scholarships for internships and college/ university studies.

CalChamber Backs Bills to Revise Regulatory Process

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modestly changed thereafter. Since 1979, the Legislature has granted massive new powers to government agencies and there has been exponential growth in regulations concerning every aspect of the economy, mostly outside the control or even awareness of elected officials.

Specifically, CalChamber supports improvements which will provide an enhanced role for the Legislature in review and oversight of regulations, independent analysis of the economic impact of regulations and legislation, and an ongoing regulatory review process that will lead to the reform or elimination of ineffective and excessively burdensome regulations.

California prides itself on being innovative and forward thinking—the state wants to lead the nation on environmental and social policies. While achieving those goals, California should also adopt bold and creative approaches to maintain a favorable regulatory climate.

Both SB 396 and SB 400 would require agencies to conduct transparent processes, to understand significant economic and other impacts, to find ways to achieve compliance at lowest cost, and to update regulations in response to new information and conditions.

The result would be a fair and predictable regulatory climate that will encourage employers to hire workers and make new investments in California.

CalChamber also agrees that the Office of Administrative Law (OAL) should have a more meaningful role to reject and require improvement for assessments that are not completed based on sound economic knowledge, methods and practices.

Two Regulatory Proposals Move

Both **SB 560 (Wright; D-Inglewood)** and **SB 688 (Wright; D-Inglewood)** passed the Senate Governmental Organization Committee on April 26.

- SB 560 ensures that a regulation will not be enforced unless compliance is possible with commercially available technologies, and that a finding by an agency that there will be no cost impacts is accompanied by a statement describing a compliance pathway with no costs.

CalChamber believes that findings which support a path for compliance should be a part of the record of all



Photo by Megan Wood

Marc Burgat, CalChamber vice president of government relations, leads CalChamber advocacy on regulatory reform.

rulemakings to minimize costs and protect businesses from penalties, lawsuits or other harm under circumstances over which the business has no control.

- SB 688 postpones the effective dates of major regulations and provides information to the fiscal committees of the Legislature to allow sufficient time for legislative review and perhaps action related to the agency authority to enact the regulation. CalChamber believes this will enhance legislative oversight of agencies and their regulations.

Key Votes

Both SB 560 and SB 688 passed the Senate Governmental Organization Committee and continue to move through the legislative process.

- SB 560 passed the committee with bipartisan support, 10-1, on April 26.

Ayes: Anderson (R-El Cajon), Berryhill (R-Modesto), Cannella (R-Ceres), de León (D-Los Angeles), Hernandez (D-West Covina), Padilla (D-Pacoima), Strickland (R-Thousand

Oaks), Wright (D-Inglewood), Wyland (R-Escondido), Yee (D-San Francisco).

Noes: Corbett (D-San Leandro).

No vote recorded: Calderon (D-Montebello), Evans (D-Santa Rosa).

- SB 688 also passed the committee with bipartisan support on April 26, 8-1.

Ayes: Anderson (R-El Cajon), Berryhill (R-Modesto), Cannella (R-Ceres) Hernandez (D-West Covina), Padilla (D-Pacoima), Strickland (R-Thousand Oaks), Wright (D-Inglewood), Wyland (R-Escondido).

Noes: Yee (D-San Francisco).

No vote recorded: Calderon (D-Montebello), Corbett (D-San Leandro), de León (D-Los Angeles), Evans (D-Santa Rosa).

Action Needed

SB 396 and SB 400 will be considered by the Senate Environmental Quality Committee on May 2. Contact your senators and urge them to **support** SB 396 and SB 400.

Staff Contact: Marc Burgat

Assembly Committee Passes Sick Leave Mandate



OPPOSE

A California Chamber of Commerce-**opposed** bill that mandates that all employers, except those with collective bargaining agreements,

provide any employee who has worked in California for seven days with paid sick leave, at the accrual rate at one hour for every 30 hours worked, has passed the Assembly Judiciary Committee.

AB 400 (Ma; D-San Francisco) unreasonably expands both public and private employers' costs and liability for new protected and paid sick leave for employees.

After the 90th day of employment, employees would be allowed to utilize their paid sick leave to care for themselves or a family member.

AB 400 allows any unused sick leave accrued in the preceding year to be carried over to the next year, which is a significant change in existing law.

Under AB 400, employers also would be required to post information regarding employees' right to paid sick leave, thereby adding to the numerous and burdensome posting requirements in California.

The costs for these mandates alone will overwhelm businesses in California that already are struggling to survive in this economy.

Increases Employer's Risk

In addition to increasing business expenses and potentially resulting in job losses, AB 400 will also dramatically increase an employer's risk for legal fees and costs.

AB 400 creates a private right of action for employees to sue for any alleged violation with the right to recover back wages, liquidated damages, withheld sick days, attorney fees, reinstatement, and injunctive relief.

In addition, AB 400 creates a rebuttable presumption of retaliation. Specifically, under AB 400 it will be presumed that an employer retaliated against an employee if the employer takes any corrective action within 90 days of an employee's complaint or opposition to an employer's practice or policy regarding mandated paid sick leave.

AB 400 also imposes penalties against an employer for failure to post the required notices, as well as maintain records regarding employees' accrued sick leave.

California recently was rated one of the top 10 litigious states in the nation.

AB 400 will emphasize that point with the various vehicles for litigation it creates.

Costly Mandate

California has the second highest unemployment rate in the nation at 12.2 percent, and is lagging the rest of the country in recovering from the recession. With this dismal financial outlook, California cannot afford to continue to burden private businesses with costly mandates such as AB 400. Private sector growth, a critical component in California's economic recovery, will be discouraged by AB 400.

Key Vote

AB 400 passed Assembly Judiciary on April 26 on a vote of 6-3.

Ayes: Atkins (D-South Park/Golden Hill), Dickinson (D-Woodlake), Feuer (D-Los Angeles), Huffman (D-San Rafael), Monning (D-Carmel), Wieckowski (D-Fremont).

Noes: Huber (D-El Dorado Hills), Jones (R-Santee), Wagner (R-Irvine)
Absent/abstaining/not voting: Gorell (R-Camarillo).

The bill will be considered next by the Assembly Appropriations Committee.

Staff Contact: Jennifer Barrera

CalChamber Luncheon Speakers Spotlight Trade Opportunities with Chile

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energy, agriculture, information and communications technologies, and trade.

The plan implies opportunity, Ambassador Schmidt said. Chile is expected to grow 7 percent in 2011 and already holds trade agreements with some of the most important economic partners in the world, including Australia, the European Union, Korea and China. What Chile can offer California is conditions for economic growth: an educated workforce and a better environment for doing business, he said.

Country Development

Chile, however, encounters several problems with which California can lend aid, said Ambassador Schmidt.

"[Chile] needs to overcome the present

difficulties...We face still a society with social imbalances, lack of...an equal society, lack of access to education and so on. In this regard, we need California—California's creativity," Ambassador Schmidt said.

California is a leader and is unique on the world stage, and a partnership will bring the Californian entrepreneurship to Chile, Ambassador Schmidt added. The partnership will promote trade and investment, but more crucially, it will bring science, joint research, and technology to Chile.

Moreover, these advancements will allow Chile to diverge from primarily exporting commodities to exporting more sophisticated products in a way that will benefit both Chile and California, Ambassador Schmidt said.

Trade Overview

Since the U.S.-Chile Free Trade Agreement was implemented in January 2004, bilateral trade between Chile and the U.S. has doubled. Chile has the most stable and fastest growing economy in the region, with renowned copper mines and a population of 17 million people.

According to the American Chamber of Commerce in Chile, more than 300 U.S. companies have investments in Chile, with more than 40 of them using Chile as a platform for services in the region. Chilean affiliates of U.S. direct investors are estimated to employ more than 58,500 people and their value-added contributed 3.2 percent to Chile's gross domestic product.

Staff Contact: Susanne Stirling



Register for Our Webinar on How to Hire Employees and Reduce Liability

Handling all the tasks required in bringing on a new employee can be challenging, but you can break down the hiring process into several manageable steps. This webinar is an essential starting point for any business hiring employees, and an excellent refresher course for experienced hiring professionals.

Our employment law experts will cover:

- How to effectively advertise open positions;
- How to avoid discrimination;
- What types of interview questions to avoid;
- How to maintain employees' at-will status;
- Best practices and pitfalls of testing employees, background checks and references.

Thursday, May 12, 10 a.m.–11:30 a.m. PST | \$189*

*\$151.20 for CalChamber Preferred and Executive Members (20% Discount)

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