



The Information Edge

Current Legal News from Collin County's
Curt B. Henderson Law Library

ISSUE 2022-03

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AUGUST 2022

Useful Internet Sites and Articles

National Labor Relations Board and Federal Trade Commission Forge New Partnership to Protect Workers from Anticompetitive and Unfair Labor Practices

July 19, 2022—www.nlrb.gov

On July 19, National Labor Relations Board (NLRB) General Counsel Jennifer A. Abruzzo and Federal Trade Commission (FTC) Chair Lina M. Khan executed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) forming a partnership between the agencies that will promote fair competition and advance workers' rights.

The agreement enables the NLRB and FTC to closely collaborate by sharing information, conducting cross-training for staff at each agency, and partnering on investigative efforts within each agency's authority.

The MOU identifies areas of mutual interest for the two agencies, including: labor market developments relating to the "gig economy" such as misclassification of workers and algorithmic decision-making; the imposition of one-sided and restrictive contract provisions, such as noncompete and nondisclosure provisions; the extent and impact of labor market concentration; and the ability of workers to act collectively.

"Workers in this country have the right under federal law to act collectively to improve their working conditions. When businesses interfere with those rights, either through unfair labor practices, or anti-competitive conduct, it hurts our entire nation," said NLRB General Counsel Jennifer A. Abruzzo. "This MOU is critical to advancing a whole of government approach to combating unlawful conduct that harms workers."

"I'm committed to using all the tools at our disposal to ensure that workers are protected," said FTC Chair Lina M. Khan. "This agreement will help deepen our partnership with NLRB and advance our shared mission to ensure that unlawful business practices aren't depriving workers of the pay, benefits, conditions, and dignity that they deserve."

National Labor Relations Board and Department of Justice Announce New Partnership to Protect Workers

July, 26, 2022—www.nlrb.gov

On July 26, National Labor Relations Board (NLRB) General Counsel Jennifer A. Abruzzo and the Justice Department (DOJ)'s Antitrust Division Assistant Attorney General Jonathan Kanter signed a new memorandum of understanding (MOU) creating a formal partnership between the two agencies to better protect free and fair labor markets and ensure that workers can freely exercise their rights under the National Labor Relations Act.

The Department of Justice and the NLRB share an interest in promoting the free flow of commerce and fair competition in labor markets, including protecting American workers from collusive or anticompetitive employer practices and unlawful interference with employees' right to organize. The Agencies' collaboration will focus on protecting workers who have been harmed or may be at risk of being harmed as a result of conduct designed to evade legal obligation and accountability (such as misclassifying employees or fissuring workplaces); interference with the rights of workers to obtain fair market compensation and collectively bargain (through labor market concentration/labor monopsony or other anticompetitive practices); and the imposition of restrictive agreements or workplace rules, such as noncompete, nonsolicitation, and nondisclosure provisions.

Through greater coordination in information sharing, enforcement activity and training, the Agencies will maximize the enforcement of federal laws, including the National Labor Relations Act (NLRA), under the NLRB's jurisdiction and the antitrust laws enforced by the Justice Department's Antitrust Division. In particular, this MOU will allow the Agencies to refer as appropriate and to coordinate on enforcement.



Copies of these articles are available in the library, or from the law librarian via email:

jsims@co.collin.tx.us

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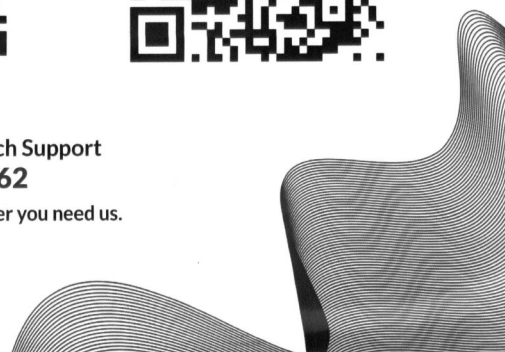
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Tech Tips: More Useful Sites and Law Blogs

- www.twc.texas.gov
- Texas Workforce Commission (TWC) is the state agency charged with overseeing and providing workforce development services to employers and job seekers of Texas. TWC strengthens the Texas economy by providing the workforce development component of the Governor's economic development strategy. Texas boasts an incredibly skilled workforce ready to attract enterprise to the Lone Star State. By focusing on the needs of employers, TWC gives Texas the competitive edge necessary to draw business here.



Tenant Protections during Covid-19

The Texas Eviction Diversion Program is currently on hold but its tenant protections remain under the Supreme Court of Texas' Fifty-Third Emergency Order. You must have an active eviction case to participate.

Note that while the Emergency Order requires an active court case, applying for rent assistance does not. Information for local rent assistance can be found here texaslawhelp.org/article/local-rent-assistance

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Hours of Operation:
Monday–Friday
8:00 am–5:00 pm

Note: Computers will
automatically log off
at 4:50 p.m.

You can participate in the program if any of the following occur:

1. The landlord applies for rent relief;
2. The landlord participates in the tenant's application for rent relief;
3. The landlord submits any information or documentation to receive payment as part of a rent relief program.

Let the judge know if any of these things have happened. If you have evidence, be sure to bring it to court. If you do not have evidence to show the judge, the court might accept a written declaration.

Once the judge is aware that you qualify, they should pause your eviction case and immediately seal the case records.

Texas Rent Relief is closed to new applications. However, any pending rent relief, whether with Texas Rent Relief or another program, can qualify you to pause and seal your case.



Did You Know?

The Texas Homeowners Assistance Fund Program (TXHAF) provides financial assistance to qualified Texas homeowners who have fallen behind on their mortgage and related expenses due to the COVID-19 pandemic. TXHAF is administered by the Texas Department of Housing and Community Affairs (TDHCA) with \$842.2 million in funds provided by the Homeowner Assistance Fund under the American Rescue Plan Act of 2021. Eligible expenses under this program include past due mortgage payments, property taxes, insurance and HOA fees. Eligibility requirements and more are listed here.

This new program is open for applications now and more information can be found at texashomeownerassistance.com

Important Announcement

Please keep in mind that if you are not comfortable visiting the library in person to do research during the pandemic, we have a number of resources available online. While we cannot provide legal advice, we may be able to guide you to the resources or forms necessary to assist you in your situation.

Library staff may be reached at 972-548-4255 or 972-548-4260.





The Law Library

will be closed on
Monday,
September 5th
for Labor Day



New on the Shelf

- ◆ O'Connor's Federal Rules: Civil Trials—2022
- ◆ Federal Sentencing Law and Practice—2022
- ◆ Texas Criminal Jury Charges—Revision 22
- ◆ O'Connor's Texas Rules: Civil Trials—2022
- ◆ O'Connor's Texas Causes of Action—2022
- ◆ Federal Sentencing Guidelines Manual—2021
- ◆ Bankruptcy Code, Rules & Official Forms—2021-22
- ◆ Texas DWI Manual—Revision 8
- ◆ Uncharged Misconduct Evidence—2022
- ◆ Federal Criminal Practice—Revision 11
- ◆ Is It Admissible? — Revision 24



Legal Humor

