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EMPLOYMENT, LABOR & BENEFITS: EMPLOYEE BENEFITS & EXECUTIVE COMPENSATION


Ruder Ware attorneys assist businesses of all sizes in complying with the requirements of the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974 (ERISA) and the Internal Revenue Code. Our attorneys work with clients in connection with the design, implementation, and administration of various types of employee benefit programs, such as defined benefit plans, profit sharing plans, 401(k) and 403(b) plans, employee stock ownership plans (ESOPs), employee stock purchase plans, executive compensation plans, group health plans, and cafeteria plans. Our clients range in size from small family-owned businesses to large, publicly held corporations. Our services include:

- Drafting benefit plan and trust documents to meet both the client's specific plan design needs and the requirements of ERISA and the Internal Revenue Code
- Providing guidance on matters such as the deductibility of contributions to and the taxation of distributions from tax-qualified retirement plans
- Advising on employee communication matters for tax-qualified retirement plans, welfare plans (including group health, life, and disability programs), and fringe benefit plans (such as cafeteria plans, flexible spending accounts, and qualified transportation fringe benefit plans)
- Analyzing and addressing retirement plan, welfare plan, and executive compensation plan issues that arise in connection with corporate mergers, acquisitions, and dispositions
- Representing clients and their plans before the Internal Revenue Service, the Department of Labor, and the Pension Benefit Guaranty Corporation; obtaining determinations from those regulatory agencies; and assisting with the many interpretive questions that inevitably arise in the course of employee benefit plan administration
- Assisting clients with correcting employee benefit plan deficiencies through the Internal Revenue Service and Department of Labor voluntary compliance programs
- Analyzing withdrawal liability issues and negotiating withdrawal liability assessments arising in connection with participation in multiemployer pension plans on behalf of both private and public employers
- Advising clients with respect to all aspects of implementing and administering group health plans, including compliance with applicable state and federal laws affecting group health plans such as ERISA, COBRA, and HIPAA
- Designing and implementing nonqualified deferred compensation arrangements, nonqualified and incentive stock option plans, stock purchase plans, severance arrangements, life and disability insurance programs, split-dollar arrangements, rabbi trusts, and other types of benefits for both

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executives and other employees

- Working on executive compensation and employee benefits issues that arise in connection with mergers and acquisitions and private equity transactions
- Working with chief executive officers and other senior executives in negotiating employment, severance, and change-of-control arrangements with their current and successor employers
- Advising employee benefit plan administrators and plan sponsors regarding ERISA fiduciary responsibilities

As part of a full-service law firm, our attorneys provide clients with a one-stop approach to their legal needs. Ruder Ware, the largest Wisconsin law firm headquartered north of Madison, also provides legal counsel in Business Transactions, Litigation & Dispute Resolution, and Trusts & Estates. 

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Legal Services Offered by Ruder Ware

Business Transactions

- Antitrust & Trade Regulation
- Bankruptcy & Creditors' Rights
- Business Organizations
- Commercial Contracts
- Corporate Finance & Securities
- Executive Compensation & Employee Benefits
- Intellectual Property
- Mergers & Acquisitions
- Real Estate & Construction

Employment, Labor & Benefits

- Employee Benefits & Executive Compensation
- Employment Law
- Labor Law

Litigation & Dispute Resolution

- Alternative Dispute Resolution
- Commercial Litigation
- Employment Litigation
- Environmental Litigation
- Preventative Litigation Services
- Products Liability Litigation
- Real Estate & Construction Litigation

Trusts & Estates

- Asset Protection Planning
- Elder Law
- Estate Planning
- Family Business Succession Planning
- Fiduciary Services
- Probate & Trust Administration

Focus Teams

- Banking & Financial Institutions
- Local Governments & Municipalities
- Professional Responsibility for Attorneys
- Schools & Educational Institutions