

## NEUTRAL NEWS YOU CAN USE

*Interesting trends and statistics at decade-ending 12/31/2009 show that labor and employment law issues and the need for dispute resolution will continue to be significant aspects of the changing global workplace.*

- **“THE BIG ZERO”** - The decade ending “was a decade with basically zero job creation. . . Private sector employment has actually declined – the first decade on record in which that happened.” P. Krugman, NYT, 12/28/09.
- **“REAL WORKING WIVES”** – “In more than a third of American households, women are now the chief breadwinners. This reversal of traditional roles was accelerated by a brutal two-year recession, in which 75 percent of all jobs lost were held by men. Even in homes where both spouses work, one in four wives now earns more than her husband.” W. Falk, NYT, 12/29/09.
- **“STUDY SHOWS JOBLESS RATE VARIES WIDELY ACROSS THE CITY”** - According to a Fiscal Policy Institute study, “racial disparities also were striking,” with unemployment among black men reaching 19.9% citywide, compared with 11.9% for Hispanic men and 7.6% for white men. P. McGeehan, NYT, 12/30/09.
- **“BRIDGING THE WORKPLACE GENERATION GAP: IT STARTS WITH A TEXT”** - Pew Research Center findings indicate a wider generation gap than ever when measuring usage of internet, cell phones, text messages, and attitudes: “The ‘old’ management style was often harsh and combative. The ‘young’ style is more direct and conciliatory.” A. Tugend, NYT, 11/6/09.
- “Online harassment is going to be a huge issue in the future.” J. Valenti, Founder & Editor of Feministing.com, in interview by D. Solomon, NYT Magazine, 11/15/09.
- Online social networking while at work hampers business productivity, according to Nucleus Research: nearly 2/3 of those with Facebook accounts access them at their workplaces, which translates into a 1.5% loss of total employee productivity across an organization. “The Greatest Generation (of Networkers),” J. Zaslow, WSJ, 11/5/09.
- **“THE RECESSION BEGINS FLOODING INTO THE COURTS”** – “New York State’s courts are closing the year with 4.7 million cases - - the highest tally ever – and new statistics suggest that courtrooms are now seeing the delayed result of the country’s economic collapse.” W. Glaberson, NYT, 12/28/09. Fulbright & Jaworski 2009 Litigation Survey confirms: “Across the board, respondents are reporting noticeable increases in bankruptcy, contract and labor/employment litigation . . . two in three respondents reported increased in wage-and-hour and other employment cases over the last year.”