



December 20, 2010

Registration Now Open for Winter Meetings

The NJBM DA is inviting members to attend winter meetings to discuss ways in which the Association can better serve you. Meetings are scheduled for: January 20 - La Griglia, Kenilworth; January 25 - Rams Head Inn, Absecon; February 8 - Maywood Inn, Maywood; and February 17, Erini's, West Trenton. Visit www.njbmda.org to download a registration form, located in the "Upcoming Events" section.

Two Wrongs May Just Make a Right: State Supreme Court Upholds Employee's Use of Wrongfully Removed Company Documents in Discrimination Action

In a decision that changes the landscape of retaliation litigation under the New Jersey Law Against Discrimination ("NJLAD"), the Supreme Court of New Jersey has said that an employee's unauthorized copying and removal of confidential company documents may comprise protected activity under the anti-retaliation provisions of NJLAD to the extent that the employee subsequently uses the pilfered documents to support her discrimination claims in a litigation.

Learn how this decision could affect you by contacting Steven Brawer, NJBM DA attorney, at 973-597-2412 or sbrawer@lowenstein.com

Is There a Future for Manufacturing in New Jersey?

New Jersey lawmakers are searching for ways to reverse a 40-year decline in manufacturing jobs and revitalize the state's industrial base. They are finding plenty of roadblocks. New Jersey in recent years hasn't been considered friendly to businesses. Its manufacturing talent base has largely disappeared, replaced by service professions.

But observers said it is worth a try, and they want to see the state invest, particularly in high-tech industries that could take advantage of its highly skilled work force. A vibrant manufacturing base would be a building block for strong economic growth, they say.

The state's manufacturing employment has declined from a peak of 900,000 in 1969 to 258,000 in October, Rutgers University economist James W. Hughes said. That still is more than the number of workers in financial services, but fewer than the 422,000 workers in local government.

In 1960, manufacturing accounted for 40.1 percent of the jobs in New Jersey. Today, it provides 6.8 percent of the jobs. Nationally, manufacturing accounted for 9.1 percent of the nation's employment in 2009. What happened? New Jersey became increasingly expensive, Hughes said.

On the Lighter Side

"Ex-President Jimmy Carter said someday soon Americans could elect a gay President. Then he winked, put on some lipstick and said, 'Or maybe they already did, girlfriend.'" — Conan O'Brien