

Labor and Employment Law

Theme Introduction

By John R. Runyan



This theme issue of the *Michigan Bar Journal* is published in cooperation with the SBM Labor and Employment Law Section. The section is composed of approximately 2,100 SBM members and an increasing number of nonlawyer affiliates, including human relations professionals, union leaders, and neutrals (arbitrators and mediators), and is governed by a 12-member council and four elected officers.

We've featured four articles—two drawn from the labor relations field and two from the broader employment-law context. Terry Ann Morgan, the recently appointed regional director of the National Labor Relations Board in Detroit, has written a timely article about work rules restricting employee use of social media. In a similar vein, Mami Kato and I have written a piece titled "What Every Employment Lawyer Needs to Know About the National Labor Relations Act." Both articles focus on rights guaranteed by Section 7 of the National Labor Relations Act—rights that extend to nonunion as well as unionized employees.

Section Chair Tim Howlett and Christina McDonald have written an update on the mandatory arbitration of statutory employment claims—a subject that continues to occupy the attention of both the United States Supreme Court and the National Labor Relations Board. Finally, Michelle Crockett, former diversity director at Miller Canfield, has written a heartfelt piece examining the topic of diversity in the partnership ranks of major law firms, including her former firm.

Also worthy of your attention but not included in this issue because of space limitations is an article by two of my favorite authors—Stuart M. Israel and Roger J. McClow—about retiree health care litigation. Their excellent summary of developments in this hotly contested area of the law—including their explanation of the Sixth Circuit's recent decision(s) in *Reese v CNH America*—will be published in February 2014 at 59 Wayne Law Review No. 2. ■



John R. Runyan is managing director of Sachs Waldman in Detroit. He is on the governing council of the SBM Labor and Employment Law Section and also serves as vice chair of the Publications and Website Advisory Committee, where he oversees publication of the Michigan Bar Journal.