

American College of Employee Benefits Counsel

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AMERICAN COLLEGE OF EMPLOYEE BENEFITS COUNSEL SELECTS NATIONAL WRITING COMPETITION WINNERS

Prestigious Law College Announces Winners of the 2012 Writing Competition

Boston, Massachusetts, September 2012 -- The American College of Employee Benefits Counsel announced the winners of its Eighth Annual Employee Benefits Writing Competition. The 2012 winners are Emily C. Lechner, of the University of Virginia School of Law, who is the winner of the Sidney M. Perlstadt Memorial Award, and Jason E. Shapiro, of the Benjamin N. Cardozo School of Law, who is the winner of the Clarin M. Schwartz Memorial Award. Each award winner receives a prize of \$1,500 and a copy of the EMPLOYEE BENEFITS LAW treatise published by the Bloomberg BNA. The winners will be honored at the College's annual dinner in Boston, Massachusetts, on September 15, 2012. The winning articles, "*Equitable Relief Under ERISA: Where the Court's Interpretation Stands and the Need to Redefine Its Analysis to Reflect the Trust-Law Basis of ERISA*" by Emily C. Lechner and "*Employee Benefits Law: The Hidden Gap Enabling Sexual Orientation Discrimination in Employment*" by Jason E. Shapiro will also be submitted to national journals for publication review.

The mission of the College is "Fostering excellence in the practice of employee benefits law and advancing public understanding of employee benefits." To further this mission, the College encourages the study and development of employee benefits law and sponsors an annual writing competition to encourage legal scholarship by law students in this evolving area of law. The writing competition is open to all law students nationally. Other projects of the College include initiating professional discussions and high level symposiums regarding significant employee benefits issues, offering a searchable data base of Fellows who are willing to serve as expert witnesses and/or mediators, co-sponsoring continuing legal education programs, and recognizing the achievements of distinguished employee benefits attorneys.

The winning articles by Ms. Lechner and Mr. Shapiro were selected based on, among other factors: (i) depth and creativity of legal analysis; (ii) thoroughness of legal research; (iii) organization and writing style; (iv) difficulty of subject matter; and (v) consideration of labor, tax or other employee benefits policy implications.

"The College congratulates our 2012 Writing Competition winners. Given the number of outstanding submissions we received this year, to have been chosen for these awards is a testament to the excellence of their papers," said Mary Ellen Signorille of AARP Foundation Litigation in Washington, DC, and President of the College.

For further information about the College, see the College's website at www.acebc.com. For further information about the Writing Competition, contact Peter Kelly, Chair of the 2012 Writing Competition Committee, at Peter.Kelly@bcbsa.com.

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