The American College of Employee Benefits Counsel

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San Diego, CA – At its 27th Annual Meeting and Gala on October 10, 2026, at the InterContinental San Diego Hotel, the American College of Employee Benefits Counsel (ACEBC®) inducted 11 employee benefits attorneys from across the country as new Fellows. The ACEBC® also presented the annual prizes to the winners of the Sidney M. Perlstadt and Brian J. Dougherty Memorial Awards in its student writing competition and recognized the winners of the student Moot Court competition, named in honor of Charter Fellow Nell Hennessy.

"The College is pleased to welcome our distinguished 2026 Class of Fellows and to honor them for their sustained commitment and service to the employee benefits community and the public at large. We're also extremely proud of all our award winners," said Frank Palmieri, College President and Partner at Palmieri & Eisenberg in Princeton, NJ.

ACEBC® Fellows are nationally recognized for professional excellence and a sustained commitment over a career spanning at least 20 years to public awareness and understanding of the laws impacting retirement plans, healthcare coverage, welfare and disability benefits, fringe benefits and other employee benefits and employment compensation arrangements affecting the American workforce.

The College's more than 475 Fellows advance its important mission through public discussion of significant legal and social policy issues in employee benefits law through such activities as writing, speaking, teaching, and leadership in bar and professional associations, and through other College activities.

In addition to its annual Gala and student writing, Moot Court and simplification competitions, the College presents symposiums, educational programming and training on employee benefit and employment compensation topics, regularly engages with government agencies on employee benefit regulatory matters and offers a searchable database of Fellows who serve as expert witnesses and mediators. The College is a 501(c)(3) organization.

A list of the newly inducted Fellows and 2026 award winners is attached. The College's website is www.acebc.com. For further information, contact Frank Palmieri at (609) 471-7679 by email at president@acebc.com or fpalmieri@p-ebenefitslaw.com.

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2026 STUDENT WRITING COMPETITION PRIZES

Brian J. Dougherty Memorial Award:
Raissa Ebeh
Georgetown University Law School

Sidney M. Perlstadt Memorial Award:
Sieun Lee
University of Illinois College of Law

2026 ELLEN A. (NELL) HENNESSY EMPLOYEE BENEFITS MOOT COURT COMPETITION PRIZES, CONDUCTED AT THE CATHOLIC UNIVERSITY OF AMERICA COLUMBUS SCHOOL OF LAW

Best Team:
Sun-Woo (Alex) Kang and Emily Kopp
University of Virginia School of Law

Best Brief:
William Tucker and Thomas Martin
Baylor University School of Law

Best Oral Advocate:
Alfie Arun
University of Virginia School of Law