



## ERIC FALL 2018 POLICY CONFERENCE

Wednesday, October 17, 2018

11:30 am – 5:30 pm

Ronald Reagan Building and International Trade Center  
Rotunda, 8th Floor, North Tower

- 11:30 am           **Registration Begins**
- 12:00 pm – 12:45 pm   **Lunch**
- 12:45 pm – 1:00 pm   **Welcome**
- 1:00 pm – 2:00 pm   **The Future of Work**
- 2:00 pm – 2:45 pm   **Blockchain, AI, Cyber, Crypto, and the Future of Technology – What are the Basics and Why You Need to Know Them**
- When we hear the term “blockchain” we tend to think of cryptocurrency or other financial transactions. Likewise, the idea of artificial intelligence (AI) stirs the notion of a machine-led world. Recently, both of these technologies and others have made their way into the employee benefits arena. This panel will focus on the basics of blockchain, artificial intelligence, and other emerging technologies and why ERIC members need to know about them.
- 2:45 pm – 3:00 pm   **Break**
- 3:00 pm – 3:45 pm   **The Intersection of Benefits and Technology**
- Now that we have a general understanding of the new technologies, let’s explore how they will be utilized to improve upon employee benefit programs. The panel will explore how new technology will enhance retirement, financial wellness and health care programs at large employers.
- 3:45 pm – 4:00 pm   **Break**
- 4:00 pm – 4:30 pm   **Preston Rutledge, Assistant Secretary of Labor, Employee Benefits Security Administration (EBSA), United States Department of Labor**
- Mr. Rutledge, speaking on behalf of Secretary Acosta, will address the Department’s priorities on regulations that impact large employers providing health and retirement plans to workers and families.
- 4:30 pm – 5:15 pm   **Public Policy Implications of Increased Advanced Technology**
- With any new technology, it is important to determine what laws and regulations need to be changed to ensure the technology can be utilized in an effective manner. This panel will review current laws and regulations that need to be updated to reflect the increasing use of blockchain and artificial intelligence and explore the issues specific to employee benefits and what it means to employers and plan participants.
- 5:30 pm – 7:30 pm   **Rooftop Reception - Office of Morgan Lewis**

**ERIC is the only national association that advocates exclusively for large employers on health, retirement, and compensation public policies at the federal, state, and local levels.**

Thursday, October 18, 2018  
7:00 am – 2:30 pm

- 7:00 am – 8:00 am **Breakfast**
- 8:00 am – 8:05 am **Welcome**
- 8:15 am – 9:00 am **Breakout Session I** (Polaris Rooms, located on the Concourse Level)

**Breakout A:**

**Emergency Savings Accounts**

- A review of recent legislation to promote emergency savings accounts sponsored by employers as well as a discussion on how to incorporate these accounts with retirement savings vehicles. The panel will discuss the best approach to assist employees in building emergency savings and needed legislative and regulatory changes.

**Breakout B:**

**What's New in Telehealth?**

- Telehealth has become a treatment source for more than just minor illnesses. This panel will explore the many ways telehealth is changing the landscape of treatment for a range of health care issues, from behavioral health to rare diseases, as well as the federal and state legislative and regulatory challenges that affect how large employers offer this benefit.

- 9:05 am – 9:50 am **Breakout Session II** (Polaris Rooms - located on the Concourse Level)

**Breakout A:**

**401(k) Fee & Fund Trends**

- Recently, ERIC has proposed new legislation to combat frivolous 401(k) fund & fee litigation, arguing that the frivolous class action suits are harming retirement savings in America. The panel will discuss the impact of litigation on changes in fund selection and explore how the lack of innovation is harming retirement security.

**Breakout B:**

**Navigating Employer Challenges in Mental Health**

- Congress continues to hone in on mental health as a priority issue, and the regulatory agencies are picking up the pace. This panel will review challenges and opportunities in the mental health space, including ideas for employers to play offense in Washington, DC.

- 10:00 am – 10:20 am **ERIC Annual Meeting and vote on Board members**

- 10:20 am – 10:30 am **Break**

- 10:30 am – 12:00 pm **Balance the Budget Table Exercise**

- An interactive activity, led by the Committee for a Responsible Federal Budget, where ERIC members will attempt to balance the federal budget, selecting priorities including health care, defense, Social Security, taxes, and other domestic spending. This activity will provide first-hand experience on how choices impact the national debt.

- 12:00 pm – 1:15 pm **Lunch**

- 12:30 pm – 1:15 pm     **Carol Weiser, Acting Benefits Tax Counsel, U.S. Treasury Department**
- Ms. Weiser will share thoughts on tax policies that impact employers sponsoring benefit plans, as well as more targeted comments on tax rules impacting health and retirement plans.
- 1:15 pm – 2:15 pm     **Election Impact on Employee Benefits Policymaking**
- What does it mean to federal employee benefits public policy if Democrats win control in November of the U.S. House and/or Senate? Political and policy experts share their experience and prognostications.
- 2:15 pm – 2:30 pm     **Raffle & Conclusion**