IN THIS ISSUE

Learn about Oregon’s New Pay Equity Law – March 19

Discover strategies for managing risk in engineering practice – April 3

Coba’s Capitol Comments

Oregon’s New Pay Equity Law – March 19

Attend in person or login in to the webinar.

Oregon’s new pay equity law makes it illegal to discriminate in compensation on the basis of any protected class of employees performing comparable work, absent proof that disparities in compensation are based on one of eight “bona fide” factors.

ALL businesses with Oregon-based employees are covered by the law. Learn what this means for your company, 6 steps to implementation and how to protect your company from lawsuits or BOLI investigations under the new law.

Click HERE for more details and to register.

See who’s already registered.

THANK YOU to the event host and sponsor!
**Profitability & Risk Management in Engineering Practice** – April 3

Engineers often feel that they are between a rock and a hard place when it comes to risk management and profitability. If they follow all of the risk management advice they are given – e.g., “only sign 100% insurable contracts,” “don’t do business with difficult clients,” “send CYA letters about everything” – they risk losing clients and projects. But engineers are also aware that one claim can have devastating impact on the firm’s profitability in the form of a (often quite large) deductible obligation, lost time, damage to reputation, and the like.

In this interactive session, we’ll offer practical strategies for managing the risks inherent in professional practice, illustrated with real-life claims and examples. Participants are encouraged to bring problems and situations for discussion.

**PRESENTER**
Karen Erger, Vice President and Director of Practice Risk Management, Lockton, the world’s largest privately owned, independent insurance brokerage.

Thank you to DEA for providing the event space!
Coba’s Capitol Comments

Week six of the legislative session graphically illustrates the social and emotional impacts of life in the Capitol. Yesterday, a million-dollar settlement was announced for several women who filed harassment complaints. Today, Secretary of State Dennis Richardson’s body is lying in state in the Capitol Rotunda and he is being honored with a state funeral in the House chamber. Each event, historic in their own way, are reminders of the important work we expect from our elected officials and the need for good people to continue to serve in these key roles.

With solid majorities in both chambers the Democrats were able to pass a bill in twenty four days that will make Oregon a national policy leader once again. SB 608 implemented a version of rent control and passed on a party line vote in both chambers. The bill was signed by Governor Brown and is already law as it had an emergency clause. Many in the business lobby fear this could be the mode of operation this session as traditional business supporting Republicans can’t muster enough votes to impact major legislative initiatives. The hope, at least in the areas of tax increases, is to partner with three moderate Democrats to at least amend legislation to limit the impact on business.

Governor Brown’s recommended 2019-21 budget released in November had $2 billion in new revenue built into her policy priorities. The legislature will make the final decisions on budget priorities and new revenue but already a major push is underway by business interests to tie any new taxes to changes in the PERS system. PERS is projected to continue to consume an ever increasing budget percentage at the state and local level and it is expected that the new $2 billion may only make a minor impact in programs after the PERS increases are paid for. Again, identifying three Senate Democrats willing to join with the twelve Republicans will be the ongoing game within a game this session.

ACEC has a few priority bills we are following. They include:

HB 2769, QBS. Some local governments and the League of Oregon Cities are seeking to amend current qualification based selection law to allow pricing information to be reviewed from the three top ranked firms prior to making a final selection. The selected firm will then negotiate scope and fees as is current law. This will be a second option for A-E procurement as the current law will remain an option. Local governments wanting to use the new option will have to announce their intentions prior to releasing the RFQ. ACEC if neutral on the bill and we expect that it will pass and be signed by the Governor. It will become law on January 1, 2020.

HB 3143, DOJ bill to conform OSBEEL statutes with the Jarlstrom case in which Mr. Jarlstrom promoted himself as a traffic engineer.

SB 896, Canadian comity law change. This bill is supported by Canadian interests and was introduced through the Pacific NorthWest Economic Region (PNWER). This is the third session for a similar bill and we expect that this version will not pass into law.
HB 2020, carbon bill. This major legislation has a number of things for a wide variety of interests to be concerned about. While we all want clean air and water and want to incentivize individuals and business to adopt best practices to alleviate long term concerns, this bill has some interesting concerns for ACEC. A key issue is the potential impact on the highway fund both in a good and bad way. This could raise a great deal of new revenue for the highway fund but some interests are looking to break the fund and use these new revenues for transportation other than highways. In addition, the Oregon Trucking Association is pushing a repeal of the weight mile tax and adoption of much higher registration fees and a diesel tax to replace the revenue. This is a long standing issue for OTA and they see this as the next opportunity to take a run at repeal.

UPCOMING

- April 4 – SW WA Public Agency Liaison Committee meeting/presentation, Clark Co. Public Works, Vancouver
- May 1 – From Doer to Leader: Lessons Learned, Portland
- May 5-8 – ACEC National 2019 Annual Convention & Legislative Summit, Washington, DC
- May 23 – Annual All-Committee Dinner (fun theme TBD!), Multnomah Athletic Club
- June 19 – Networking Day golf tournament, Langdon Farms Golf Club

Contribute to the scholarship fund!
- Click HERE for more information and a pledge form, or contact mwebber@acecOregon.org.

SAVE THE DATES

September 19-21, 2019
ACEC Oregon Fall Conference

Comments? Questions? Please e-mail mwebber@acecOregon.org or adavis@acecOregon.org.

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Upcoming events: http://www.acecoregon.org/calendar_list.asp.

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