

# Law of the Workplace

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**CLIENT ALERT**

## SEIU Has Connecticut In Its Sights

The Service Employees International Union (SEIU) has a new president. SEIU elected Mary Kay Henry last weekend, former head of the union's healthcare division.

Henry is committing \$8 million to union organizing efforts on top of the \$10 million SEIU already has committed. The \$8 million "innovation fund" is aimed at organizing private sector, white-collar workers who are employed by banks, insurance and biotechnology companies. The money will be spent in states where SEIU has successfully organized in the past, including Connecticut.

In addition, SEIU will use the money to support democratic nominees for governor. SEIU represents a significant number of government workers whose jobs the union wants to preserve despite the economic climate and state budget problems.

Business groups, including the U.S. Chamber of Commerce, are concerned about the union's organizing efforts and warn that employers should be too. They view the fund as another way for unions to engage in "corporate campaigns" designed to pressure employers into recognizing unions without holding secret ballot elections. Employers with questions regarding union organizing should contact the labor attorneys of Siegel, O'Connor, O'Donnell & Beck, P.C. at (860) 727-8900 or by visiting us online at [www.siegeloconnor.com](http://www.siegeloconnor.com).

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This material is intended to provide you with information regarding a noteworthy legal development. It should not be regarded as a substitute for legal advice concerning specific situations in your operation. If you have any questions or would like additional information on this topic, please contact our Firm at (860) 727-8900 or [www.siegeloconnor.com](http://www.siegeloconnor.com).

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