

## Homeland Security Focusing on I-9 Audits

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The chief of Homeland Security's enforcement arm announced that his agency would continue to dramatically step up I-9 audits, according to a *Wall Street Journal* interview published today.

John Morton, Assistant Secretary for Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE), said the new Employment Compliance Inspection Center will provide large numbers of I-9 specialists to enable local immigration offices to go after big employers, as well as industries that are targeted for employing undocumented workers.

In fiscal 2010, ICE more than doubled the number of companies it audited. Assessed fines for 2010 were \$7 million, up from \$1 million in 2009.

Warner Norcross & Judd would be pleased to conduct your preventive I-9 audits. We also help employers develop in-house I-9 compliance programs to reduce the risk of penalties if your company is subjected to an ICE audit.

For more information, contact Immigration Group Chair Kathy Hanenburg (616.752.2151 or [khanenburg@wnj.com](mailto:khanenburg@wnj.com)) or Angela Jenkins (616.752.2480 or [ajenkins@wnj.com](mailto:ajenkins@wnj.com)).