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Reminder: New York's Wage Theft Prevention Act Annual Notice Requirement

December 2011

In our March 2011 and April 8, 2011 client alerts, we advised that New York's Wage Theft Prevention Act (WTPA) requires employers to furnish their employees working in New York with written notices of their rates of pay and other information, both at the time of hire and annually thereafter on or before February 1 of each calendar year, beginning in 2012. By way of this client alert, we remind you of the upcoming obligation to send these notices to New York employees between January 1, 2012 and February 1, 2012.

While the New York Department of Labor (NYDOL) has published templates for the required notices, Loeb & Loeb has modified these templates to reflect more accurately the statutory requirements and to eliminate unnecessary, and potentially confusing and misleading, information. Additionally, we also remind you of the foreign language requirements of the statute. If an employee's primary language is one for which the NYDOL has prepared a template (*i.e.*, Chinese, Creole, Korean, Polish, Russian and Spanish), then you must provide the notice both in English and in such foreign language.

As noted in our March 2011 alert, failure to provide the annual notices required by the WTPA may subject the employer to various penalties and damages, including damages of \$50 per week for each employee to whom a notice was not provided, plus costs and attorneys' fees.

Loeb & Loeb attorneys are available to assist you in understanding and complying with the WTPA and to provide you with our alternate forms should you wish to use them.



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