

Tonie L. Bitseff

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Special Counsel

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Areas of Practice & Industry Specialties

Corporate Law; Tax, Benefits and Estate Planning; Labor & Employment



Tonie Bitseff is a member of the Corporate Law and Labor & Employment Practice Groups in the Firm's Seattle office. Ms. Bitseff provides advice on compensation and benefit matters and serves as ERISA counsel in connection with employee benefit plans and employers. Ms. Bitseff addresses legal issues in design, implementation, administration, corrections, and conflict resolution related to health plans, severance plans, life insurance, disability benefits, wellness plans, 125 plans, individual account plans (HSAs, FSAs, and HRAs), and retirement plans. She assists clients with design, diligence review, internal audits, benefit outsourcing, vendor management, coverage issues, ERISA fiduciary liability, ERISA claims and appeals processes, and government audits. Ms. Bitseff also serves as ERISA counsel supporting contract negotiations and business transactions such as mergers and acquisitions.

Publications

- Executive Order Payroll Tax Deferral: Guidance and Considerations, *Buchalter Client Alert*, September 4, 2020
- Buchalter COVID-19 Client Alert: Court Decision Expands Families First Coronavirus Response Act Coverage, August 7, 2020
- Buchalter Client Alert COVID-19: Opportunities in an Economy Shattered by Covid-19, *Buchalter Client Alert*, April 23, 2020
- Tax Credits to Offset Congress' Newly-Mandated Paid Leave, *Buchalter Client Alert*, March 20, 2020
- Employee Benefits Advice Related to COVID-19 Pandemic in the United States, *Buchalter Client Alert*, March 20, 2020
- Looking Beyond the ACA; Focus on Employee Assistance Plans, *Bloomberg BNA*, February 2015
- The Employer's Role and Responsibility in Health Care Privacy, Chapter Author, *Inside the Minds: Complying with Health Care Privacy Laws*, *Thomson Reuters*, November 2008
- Nuts, Bolts and Screws-A Guide to Open Enrollment Forms and Materials, *BNA Practice Center, ERISA Compliance and Enforcement Library*, September 2005

Webinars

- "Webinar: Effective Communication Strategies for ERISA Plans," October 24, 2018

Education

Ms. Bitseff earned her LL.M. in Taxation and Compensation from the University of Washington School of Law. She earned her J.D. from Seattle University School of Law in 1996 and her B.A. from the University of Washington.

Bar Admissions

- Washington
- California