

POLICY MATTERS

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Nominees for Key Labor Vacancies Renominated. After the return of their nominations by the Senate at the conclusion of the last session of Congress, President Trump this week re-nominated several individuals for key positions at the Labor Department and EEOC. Cheryl Stanton has been renominated to serve as Administrator of the Wage & Hour Division, Scott Mugno to be Assistant Secretary for OSHA, and John Pallasch to be Assistant Secretary for ETA. For the EEOC, Janet Dhillon has been renominated as Commissioner and Sharon Fast Gustafson as General Counsel. Each of these individuals will require confirmation by the Senate before taking on their roles.

Budget Standoff Continues. As the longest (partial) lapse in federal funding drags on, increasingly there are [reports](#) (subscription) of the negative impact the shutdown is having on government contractors. And there is still no end in sight to the standoff. Seyfarth's Government Contracts team has some tips for federal contractors during the shutdown [here](#).

Minimum Wage Bill Introduced. The House Education & Labor Committee Chairman, Bobby Scott, introduced the Raise the Wage Act of 2019. According to the [fact sheet](#) released by Chairman Scott, the Act would (1) raise the minimum wage to \$15 by 2024; (2) index the minimum wage to inflation thereafter; (3) eliminate the tip credit; (4) eliminate the youth opportunity wage; and (5) eliminate the section 14(c) program for workers with disabilities.

NLRB Extends Joint Employer Comment Period. The NLRB once again extended the period for submitting comments in response to its joint employer regulatory proposal. Comments are now due January 28. In addition, due to the lapse in funding, resulting in the shutdown of regulations.gov, the NLRB created an e-mail address dedicated to receiving comments: regulations@nlrb.gov. Comments may also be submitted via even older methods of delivery, such as by hand or via U.S. Mail.

OIRA Receives Proposed Rule on Salary Increase. According to the website of the White House's Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs, on January 16, it received for review the Wage & Hour Division's proposed rule raising the salary level required for exemption under the FLSA's white collar exemptions. Once OIRA completes its review, WHD will publish the proposal in the Federal Register and allow the public to provide comments. We would expect that proposal in early Spring.

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