### Spring FORWARD legal updates

Top 4 Tips for your Top 4 Legal Docs





Presented by:
Jessyca Greenwood
& Lisa Stam





#### **Presentation Roadmap**

- 1. Ensuring your employment contracts are enforceable
- 2. Writing termination clauses that reflect company culture and calm exits
- 3. Must-have vs nice-to-have workplace policies (Rome wasn't built in a day!)
- 4. Releases: clean breaks, post-employment restrictions and reducing legal risks



 Ensure you are classifying your employees properly:

• EE vs IC

Mucking Up the Employment Contract

 The Importance of Employment Contracts

- Restrictive covenants: Giving Away Your Ideas

  - Non-Competition and Non-Solicitation
  - Must demonstrate you have a proprietary interest to protect

**Auditing Your Employment Contracts** 

- Top Tip #1 What type of contract?
  - Indefinite Term Employee
  - Independent Contractor
  - Fixed Term Employee

**Auditing Your Employment Contracts** 

- Top Tip #2 Get it signed BEFORE the start date to ensure enforceability
  - O What is consideration?

#### **Auditing Your Employment Contracts**

- Top Tip #3 Probationary Period
  - Employment Standards Act first 3 months
  - Set this out in the contract!

**Auditing Your Employment Contracts** 

Top Tip #4 - Termination Provisions

**Auditing Your Employment Contracts** 

 Top Tip #5 - Templates are cost-effective when also some customized advice



# 2. Writing termination clauses that reflect company culture and calm exits

13

### 2. Writing termination clauses that reflect company culture and calm exits

- Termination clauses are the focus of most litigation
- Hope for the best but plan for the worst
- The termination meeting

### 2. Writing termination clauses that reflect company culture and calm exits

- Length of notice period cushion for next job
- Give Reasons?
- Time to consider termination package

# 3. Must-have vs nice-to-have workplace policies (Rome wasn't built in a day!)



#### 3. Must-have workplace policies

- Workplace Violence and Harassment Policy
- Occupational Health and Safety Policy
- Accessibility Policy
- Pay Equity Plan

- Remote work policy
  - Loosey-Goosey Remote Working Rules

- Accommodation policy
  - Don't be cynical about disability issues

- Performance Management Policy
  - Failing to Manage Performance Before Blow-Ups

 Attendance Management Challenges and Opportunities

## 4. Releases: clean breaks, post-employment restrictions and reducing legal risks



## 4. Releases: clean breaks, post-employment restrictions and reducing legal risks

- Purpose and Elements of the Release
- Timing
- Does this doc encourage employees to lawyer up?

## 4. Releases: clean breaks, post-employment restrictions and reducing legal risks

- Enforceability of a Release
  - Lack of Consideration
  - Lack of Capacity
  - Lack of Settlement
  - Misrepresentation or Fraud
  - Mistake
  - Unconscionability



#### **Takeaways**

- Whether a small or giant global company, get the
   4 core docs in place for legal risk reasons
- Realities of small business bandwidth are real focus on what best addresses both:
  - company culture
  - legal risk

#### The 444 Toolkit - Time Limited | Deeply Discounted!

The 444 an employment law toolkit containing our most highly sought-after resources that our clients ask for every day:

- 4 Core Legal Templates
- 4 Workplace Law Guides
- 4 Helpful Checklists





#### WHAT'S INCLUDED IN THE 444:

#### 4 Core Legal Docs



- Employment
   Contract
- Employee
   Handbook
- Termination Letter
- Release for Employees
   Upon an Exit

#### 4 Workplace Guides

- Guide to Hiring
- Guide to Employment Contracts
- Guide to Firing
- Guide for Employers
   During Covid-19
   (in case you haven't already picked that up off our website)

#### 4 Checklists

- Workplace \*
   Policies Checklist
- Should I Hire Checklist
- Workplace Compliance Checklist
- Exit Interview
   Checklist



#### The 444 Toolkit - Time Limited | Deeply Discounted!



**AVAILABLE APRIL 2021 ONLY!** 

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https://www.springlaw.ca/product/the-444-toolkit/

### Questions?

To learn more about our team: https://springlaw.ca/team/

#### To connect with our legal team:

- Marnie Baizley mbaizley@springlaw.ca
- Laurence Camille Icamille@springlaw.ca
- Jessyca Greenwood jgreenwood@springlaw.ca
- Deidre Khayamian dkhayamian@springlaw.ca
- Danielle Murray dmurray@springlaw.ca
- Gaya Murti gmurti@springlaw.ca
- Hilary Page hpage@springlaw.ca
- Emily Siu esiu@springlaw.ca
- Lisa Stam Istam@springlaw.ca

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