

# The Year Ahead 2025: Wage and Hour Considerations

January 16, 2025

While many anticipate a more business-friendly administration, the appointment of a seemingly pro-labor Republican as Labor Secretary and President Trump's populist instincts could make it hard to predict what the year ahead will bring for wage and hour law.

## Start-of-the-Year Status

### Minimum salary for EAP exemptions

- Vacated.
- DOL has filed an appeal.

### Independent contractor rule

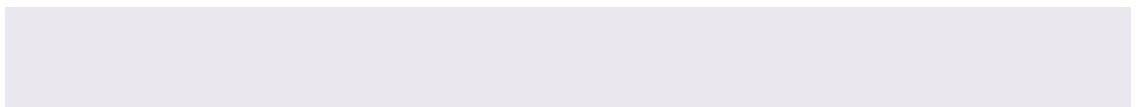
- Several lawsuits pending.
- Trump Administration may restore regulations his DOL previously issued.

### 80-20 regulation for tipped employees

- Vacated.
- Employees will still seek to impose it, or some version of it, as a valid interpretation of the statutory language permitting a tip credit.

### Federal contractors

- Minimum wage mandate for federal contractors valid, for now, in most jurisdictions.
- Trump executive order likely imminent.



## What to Watch

- Congressional weigh-in on Trump's campaign promises:
  - No tax on tips or overtime?
  - Comp time for private employees?
  - Overtime determined based on an 80-hour cycle?
- Labor Secretary nominee Lori Chavez-DeRemer: The degree to which she will be a wild card.
  - Will DOL shift focus from enforcement actions to education and job creation?
- Wage and hour collective actions: Procedural shifting sands.
  - Erosion of "conditional" certification.
  - *Bristol-Myers* reins in nationwide collectives.
- Enforcement + litigation: The extent to which the locus shifts to the states.

## Podcast



## The Year Ahead 2025: Back to the Future for Core Wage and Hour Concerns

Hosts: **Justin R. Barnes**, Principal and Wage and Hour Co-Leader, and **Eric R. Magnus**, Principal

and Class Actions and Complex Litigation Co-Leader

“A corollary to the populist instincts of president-to-be Trump [i.e., his possible support for some increase to the federal minimum wage] is this issue about removing taxes on tips. This is something that could certainly happen in 2025 — and it would be the most important effect on the wage and hour practice in the entire time I have been practicing in this area.”

[Listen to the podcast](#)

## Related resources



**U.S. Supreme Court Makes Clear There Is No Heightened Standard for Employers to Establish an FLSA Exemption Applies**



**Supreme Court Won't Consider Federal Contractor Minimum Wage Mandate**



### **A Reprieve for Employers: Texas Court Vacates DOL Rule Increasing Salary Level for Exempt Employees**



### **Fifth Circuit Strikes Down DOL Tip Credit Rule: What It Means for Employers**



### **DOL Returns to Pre-2021 Dual Jobs Regulation for Tipped Employee**



### **Labor Department Releases Independent Contractor Final Rule, Revising Standard**



### **Federal Contractors in Flux: Ninth Circuit Finds President Biden Can't Mandate Minimum Wage Under EO 14026**



### **Proposed Rule Would End Subminimum Wage for Employees with Disabilities**

[Return to The Year Ahead 2025 Report](#)

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