

News Release



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Contact: Gloria Della
Phone: (202) 693-8664

U.S. Secretary of Labor Elaine L. Chao Meets With 2004 ERISA Advisory Council

WASHINGTON — Secretary of Labor Elaine L. Chao met with the Advisory Council of Employee Welfare and Pension Plans to welcome the Council's new members and discuss ways to improve the retirement security and health coverage of America's workers.

"The year's Advisory Council's members will be a source of unique insights into a variety of issues facing pension, health and other benefit plans under the Employee Retirement Income Security Act," Secretary Chao said. "Recent Council recommendations resulted in a fiduciary education program unveiled last month to help employers and those who service plans to better meet their fiduciary responsibilities under the law. I look forward to working with the Council as they consider emerging issues affecting the retirement and health benefits of workers and their families."

Secretary Chao also announced the new leadership of the 15-member Advisory Council. David Wray of Chicago will serve as the chair and R. Todd Gardenhire of Chattanooga, Tenn. as vice chair.

New members appointed to three-year terms to represent various stakeholders in the employee benefits world include Charles J. Clark, vice president of Aon Consulting in New Jersey, representing actuarial counseling; Lynn L. Franzoi, senior vice president of benefits for the Fox Entertainment Group, Inc. in California, representing employer organizations; Neil Gladstein, senior research economist and assistant director of the Strategic Resources Department of the International Association of Machinists and Aerospace Workers in Maryland, representing employee organizations; Sherrie E. Grabot, president, founder and chief executive officer of GuidedChoice, Inc of California, representing investment counseling; and Tim Knopp, member of the Oregon House of Representatives, former state majority leader of the House and chair of the House Public Employees Retirement System Committee in Oregon, representing the general public.

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