

Violations En Vogue?

Labor and Employment Law Concerning Fashion Models and Interns

*Sponsored by the Model Alliance, Dorsey & Whitney LLP,
and the Fashion Law Committee of the New York State Bar Association*

Tuesday, February 12, 2013

5:30 - 8:30p.m.

Location

Dorsey & Whitney LLP
51 West 52nd Street
New York, NY 10019-6119

The event will address labor and employment law issues as they relate to fashion models and fashion design interns.

Intern Panel

The use of unpaid interns is widespread in the fashion industry, as well as many other industries. The U.S. Department of Labor has a set of criteria that employers must meet for an internship to be legal.

Some argue that internships routinely fail to meet this criteria. A number of lawsuits have been filed on behalf of interns. This panel will discuss the use of unpaid interns, with particular emphasis on their use in the fashion industry. It will explore ways in which

employers can ensure they are adhering to state and federal guidelines governing the use of unpaid interns.

Moderator

Gary D. Friedman, Esq., Employment Litigation Partner, Weil, Gotshal & Manges LLP

Speakers

Laura Lestrade, Esq., Senior Attorney, Dorsey & Whitney, LLP

Deborah McNamara, Esq., Attorney, designer and Fashion Law Professor, New York Law School

Ross Perlin, Author, Intern Nation

Elizabeth Wagoner, Esq., Associate, Outten & Golden LLP

Fashion Model Panel

Because models are typically considered independent contractors (as opposed to employees), they do not benefit from the protection afforded to U.S. employees. Some argue that this leads to poor working conditions that would be illegal in the traditional workplace such as unpaid wages, sexual harassment and violations of child labor laws. The panel will explore these issues and discuss ways they can be addressed.

Moderator

Paula Viola, Esq., Former Model, Associate at Paul Weiss

Speakers

Tracy Agyemang, Esq., Trial Attorney, US Department of Labor

Barbara Coleman, Talent Agent, Innovative Artists

Gary D. Friedman, Esq., Employment Litigation Partner, Weil,

Gotshal & Manges LLP

Doreen Small, Esq., Of Counsel at Golenbock Eiseman & Peskoe,
adjunct professor at the Fashion Law Institute at Fordham

Jennifer Starr, Casting Director, Jennifer Starr Casting

Sara Ziff, Model, Founder/Director of Model Alliance

Following the program there will be a trunk show and hors d'oeuvres
will be served.

Program fees:

\$35 - Model Alliance members, EASL members, and attorneys with
Dorsey & Whitney

\$50 - Non-members

\$25 - Law Students

For more information, contact: bgould@nysba.org

The last day to pre-register online is February 10th, 2013. [Register
online now.](#)

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at [800-582-2452](tel:800-582-2452) or kheider@nysba.org.