

# The American College of Employee Benefits Counsel

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September 8, 2020

Washington, D.C. – The American College of Employee Benefits Counsel (ACEBC™) has named J. Mark Poerio of the Wagner Law Group as the winner of the College's 2020 Simplification Award for original ideas to simplify the complex laws applicable to employee benefit plans. Randy Hardock, Chair of the ACEBC™ Simplification Award Committee, will deliver the award's \$10,000 prize to Mr. Poerio at the College's 21<sup>st</sup> Annual Meeting and Induction Ceremony to be held virtually on Thursday, October 8, 2020. Mr. Poerio won the prize for his proposals to improve individual choices for defined contribution plan participants through an expanded PBGC mission.

The ACEBC™ Simplification Award has been established with a multi-year grant from a past president of the ACEBC™, David E. Gordon of Frederic W. Cook & Co, Inc. Coincidentally, the 2020 winner, Mr Poerio is also a past president of the ACEBC™ although the ACEBC™ Board of Governors did not know the identity of the winner until it made the award. See the link to the rules below.

The competition for the 2021 ACEBC™ Simplification Award has opened. Its rules, FAQs, and template can be found on the ACEBC™ website at:

<https://www.ACEBC™.com/simplification-award>  
<https://www.ACEBC™.com/simplification-award-rules>  
<https://www.ACEBC™.com/simplification-award-FAQs>

Questions about the Simplification Award should be directed to Randy Hardock, at [rhardock@david-harman.com](mailto:rhardock@david-harman.com).

ACEBC™ is a not-for-profit organization whose mission statement is: "Fostering excellence in the practice of employee benefits law and advancing public understanding of employee benefits." The College advances its mission by encouraging the study and development of employee benefits laws and of significant legal and social policy issues impacting the regulation and management of pension, retirement, group health, welfare, and disability plans. It pursues those goals by initiating professional discussions and high-level symposiums of significant issues, offering a searchable data base of Fellows who are willing to serve as expert witnesses and/or mediators, cosponsoring continuing legal education programs, and recognizing the achievements of distinguished employee benefits attorneys.

In addition to the Simplification Award to inspire ideas to simplify the regulation of employee benefit plans, the ACEBC™ also sponsors:

- a law student outreach mentoring program;
- its national law student writing competitions to encourage legal scholarship in this evolving area of law; and
- the Annual Ellen A. (Nell) Hennessy Moot Court Competition in partnership with the Catholic University of America Columbus School of Law, addressing cutting edge employee benefits issues.

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