



## West Michigan Chapter

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### Learning, Libations and Networking Event February 23, 2017

The West Michigan Chapter invites you and a guest to attend an education and networking event on Thursday, February 23, 2017.

This **free** event is limited to the first 30 participants, so please check your calendar and register as soon as you can!

#### Learning

We will begin with the webinar, **Anatomy of a Benefit Appeal – A Discussion and Primer on the Best Practices for Handling Benefit Appeals**, which will begin at 3 p.m. in the Aon offices located at 50 Louis Street Northwest, Suite 200, Grand Rapids, MI 49503. Parking is available at the Monroe Center Parking ramp, marked as M on the [City parking map](#). We will be meeting in the main conference room on the second floor. Refreshments will be served.

#### **Anatomy of a Benefit Appeal – A Discussion and Primer on the Best Practices for Handling Benefit Appeals**

In light of an increase in participant litigation and heightened DOL enforcement efforts, it is imperative that plans ensure their procedures and policies for handling benefit appeals are in accordance with applicable law and plan documents.

Daniel Brice, Partner, Blitman & King LLP, will walk us through each step of the appeal process up to and including litigation challenging benefit denials.

We will discuss case examples at each stage of the process to assist attendees in developing a structure for handling benefit appeals that will put the plan in the best possible position in the event of litigation or audit.

Finally, we will analyze recent participant litigation and the impact on plans going forward.

#### Libation and Networking

At about 4:30 p.m., we will walk to The Bob for drinks (cash bar) and networking. The Bob's address is 20 Monroe NW, Second Floor, Grand Rapids, MI 49503.

Date: February 23, 2017 (Tuesday)  
Schedule: 2:30 - 3:00 pm - Registration  
3:00 - 4:30 pm - Webinar  
4:30 - The Bob  
Location: Aon  
50 Louis Street Northwest, Suite 200  
Grand Rapids, MI 49503  
Cost: **Free** (limited to the first 30 participants)  
RSVP: By February 20, 2017.  
Registration: Please [click here](#) to register.  
Questions: Debra Pratt, CEBS  
[debrapratt@gmail.com](mailto:debrapratt@gmail.com)  
(612) 845-1212

#### Speaker:

**Daniel Brice, Partner  
Blitman & King LLP  
Syracuse, NY**

Mr. Brice is a partner at Blitman & King in Syracuse, New York. He represents benefit funds in complex ERISA litigation and counsels sponsors of multiemployer and single employer plans, tax-exempt entities and executives on all matters of ERISA and employee benefits including Affordable Care Act compliance. Mr. Brice advises on the design, operation and qualification of pension and welfare benefit plans. He has represented clients in front of the Pension Benefit Guaranty Corporation, Internal Revenue Service, United States Department of Labor, National Labor Relations Board, New York State Public Employment Relations Board, New York State Division of Human Rights, Equal Employment Opportunity Commission, and state and federal courts. Mr. Brice obtained his Bachelor of Arts degree in communication from the State University of New York at Oswego and his juris doctor degree from the State University of New York at Buffalo School of Law. He is a member of the American Bar Association, New York State Bar Association, Onondaga County Bar Association and N.D.N.Y. Federal Court Bar Association.



*If you would like to volunteer with the West Michigan Chapter or have an idea for an upcoming session, contact Debra Pratt, CEBS at [debrapratt@gmail.com](mailto:debrapratt@gmail.com) or (612) 845-1212.*

