

S. Derrin Watson, JD, APM, Pension Educator

Knowledge, Experience, and Clarity

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Nationally known and respected attorney, S. Derrin Watson, is available to provide education and training to your company or organization. Whether you want live presentations or web seminars, from 100 minutes to multiple days, Derrin can customize an educational package to meet your group's unique needs. Available topics include:

Current developments	Controlled groups
Fiduciary rule	Affiliated service groups
Form 5500 filing	Testing related employers
DOL proposed Form 5500	403(b) plans
Participant loans (beg & adv)	457(b) plans
401(k) fundamentals	409A plans
401(k) testing techniques	EPCRS
Safe harbor 401(k) plans	Compensation
Cross-testing (beg & adv)	HCE determination
Ethics	Mergers and acquisitions
Rehired employees	Multiple employer plans
Hardship distributions and documentation	

Experience:

S. Derrin Watson, JD, APM, is an independent ERISA attorney and educator in Santa Barbara, California, with over 36 years of experience in dealing with retirement plans. In addition to his solo practice, Mr. Watson is of counsel to the Ferenczy Benefits Law Center. Previously, Mr. Watson worked with FIS (SunGard) with their Relius line of educational programs and products.

He recently completed the 7th edition of his related employer reference book, [Who's the Employer](#). He lectures frequently for ASPPA and other professional organizations. In 2006, ASPPA awarded Derrin its Educator's Award for his work in providing continuing education to plan practitioners.

Derrin is a Senior Editor of the Journal of Pension Benefits and authors the ["Who's the Employer" column](#) on the BenefitsLink web site.



Background

Mr. Watson received his bachelor's degree in accounting from BYU and his JD in 1980 from UCLA Law School. He is a member of the California Bar. He has been involved with qualified plans since 1977, and had his first case involving controlled groups shortly thereafter. He has maintained a strong interest in this area ever since and has become the leading authority on controlled group, affiliated service group, and leased employee issues. He authored the first edition of *Who's the Employer - A Guide to Employee and Aggregation Issues Affecting Qualified Plans* in 1998, and has recently completed the [7th edition](#) of this popular reference work.

In his 16 years working for or with SunGard, Derrin traveled extensively to provide pension education and training on a variety of topics. In 2016 alone he gave over 75 web seminars. He is known for making complex topics understandable and fun, mixing humor and the occasional song into his presentations.