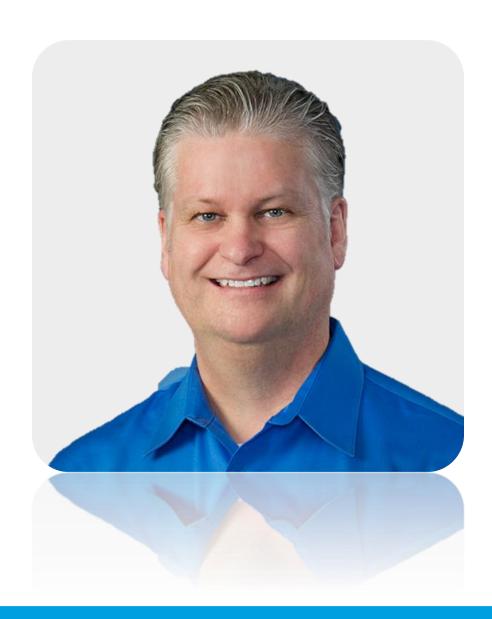
## Navigating Through The Chaos Independent Contracting Compliance







Kimball Norup
CEO | ComplianceHR
norup@compliancehr.com

## Introducing the Navigator Suite

#### ComplianceHR SmartScreen



#### COVID-19 Screening

Efficiently screens your employees and tracks results as they return to work, while helping you ensure privacy and 50-state compliance.

◆ Manage Employees

Q Track Results

#### **COVID-19 Resource Center**



#### COVID-19 Resource Center

Quickly delivers answers to the most pressing employment-related COVID-19 topics such as health and safety, leaves of absence and more.

Q Use FAQ Rapid Reference

Q View Resource Documents

#### PolicySmart



#### Be Confident. Stay Compliant.

PolicySmart's simple templates and checklists make it easy to create and maintain your policies. Ensure you never miss an update with our intuitive news and notifications about regulatory changes.

Q View Policy Documents

Q View Policy News

Configure Jurisdictions

#### **Navigator IC**



#### Independent Contractor Assessment

Delivers an actionable risk assessment, a report on how to lower the risk of misclassification, and a summary of applicable laws

+ Create New Evaluation

Q View Evaluations

▶ IC Agreement

#### **Navigator OT**



#### **Exempt Status Assessment**

Provides a risk assessment of each applicable exemption, suggestions on how to lower the risk of misclassification, and a summary of the federal and state exemption standards

+ Create New Review

Q View Reviews

Q View Evaluations

#### **Navigator Leave**



#### Leave Compliance

Generates state and federal compliant forms, and quickly delivers federal and state-specific leave requirements (and paid sick leave or "PSL") through Rapid Reference tools.

+ Create New Form

Q View Forms

► Use PSL Rapid Reference

▶ Use Rapid Reference

#### **Navigator Pay Practices**



#### Wage and Hour Compliance

Delivers comprehensive reports on a federal and state-by-state basis for the most common wage and hour issues

► Find Minimum Wage

▶ Use Rapid Reference

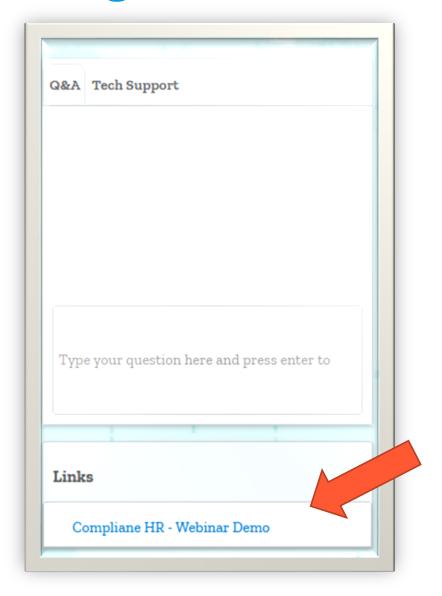
#### **Navigator Onboarding**



Onboarding Document Production Produces state and federal compliant employment applications, offer letters, and employee non-disclosure documents

+ Create New Document

## Register for a Navigator Suite Demonstration



### What You'll Receive

- Full slide presentation (pdf format)
- Link to recorded audio presentation
- ComplianceHR demonstration and free trial!

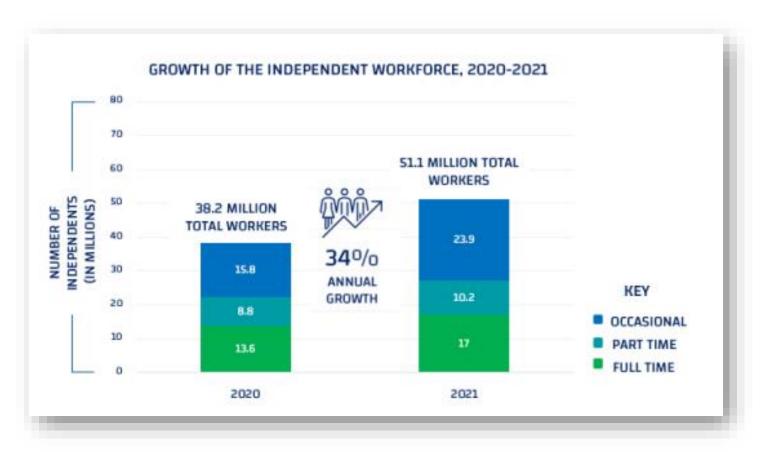




Q & A Box on your screen (questions are confidential – visible to presenters only)

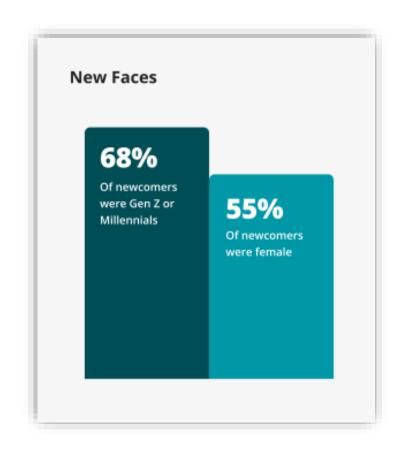
## 34% Increase in Independent Workers Last Year

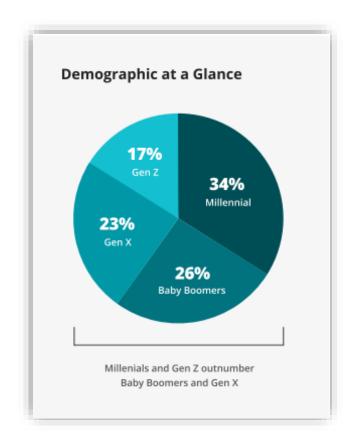




https://www.mbopartners.com/state-of-independence/

## New Independent Workers are Gen Z & Millennials, Women





## New Independent Worker are Happier, Healthier, and More Secure

Sentiment at a Glance

**87%** 

Are happier working on their own

**78%** 

Are healthier working on their own

About two-thirds (68%) of full-time independent workers say that working independently is more secure than having a traditional job.

Many of those quitting full-time work are drawn to independent work by the work/life flexibility, autonomy, and control it provides.



**63**º/o

of workers (up from 59% in 2020) say that working independently was their choice completely



**77**%

are highly satisfied, the highest level of satisfaction in our 11 years of data

#### CALIFORNIA PROPOSITIONS

## Prop. 22 California election results: Rideshare measure passes



Wednesday, November 4, 2020

California voters have approved Proposition 22, which classifies app-based drivers for companies such as Uber and Lyft as independent contractors instead of employees.

With more than two-thirds of the state's precincts reporting, the measure was ahead by a 58-42 margin - more than 6.3 million votes in favor to 4.5 million opposed.

WORK

# There are more than 11 million open jobs in America right now—and workers have the upper hand

Published Thu, Mar 10 2022-11:46 AM EST



### **Tammy McCutchen**

Strategic Adviser | ComplianceHR tammy@compliancehr.com

- Former Administrator, US-DOL, Wage & Hour Division
- A leading authority of federal and state wage and hours law
- Primary architect of DOL's overtime exemptions regulations & ComplianceHR's Navigator IC and Navigator OT applications



## Maury Baskin Shareholder | Littler | Washington, DC mbaskin@littler.com

- Co-Chair, Workplace Policy Institute
- Led successful challenges against DOL regulations on behalf of multi-industry coalitions, including the 2016 "white collar" overtime rule and the so-called "blacklisting" rule
- Led successful defense and reinstatement of the 2021 independent contractor rule

## January 2021 Independent Contracting Regulations

### **Economic Reality Test**

An individual is an employee "if as a matter of economic reality, the individual is economically dependent on that employer for work"

#### **Two Core Factors:**

- 1. The nature and degree of control over the work
- 2. The worker's opportunity for profit or loss

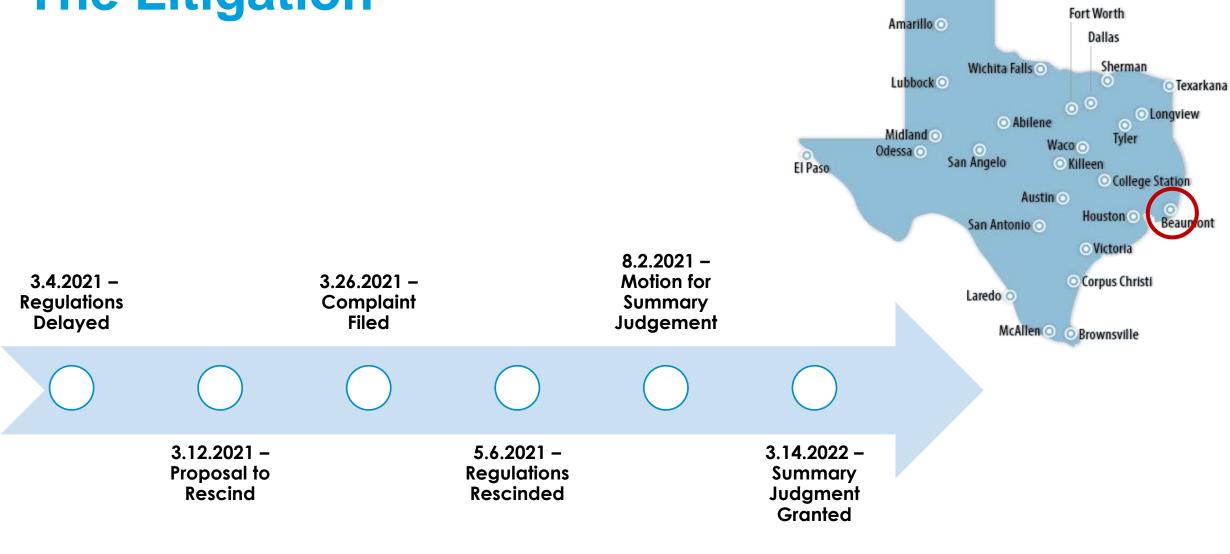
#### **Other Factors**

- The amount of skill required
- 2. The degree of permanence of the relationship
- 3. Whether the work is part of an integrated unit of production

## **Death of the IC Regulations**



## **The Litigation**



## Resuscitation of the IC Regulations

## Workplace Innovation v. Walsh (March 14, 2022, E.D. Tex.)

- Recission was arbitrary and capricious because DOL refused to consider any alternatives to total withdrawal of the Trump rule and "left regulated parties without consistence guidance"
- The Trump rule "became effective on March 8, 2021, the rule's original effective date, and remains in effect."

#### **Alternatives that DOL could have considered:**

- A version of the Trump rule that did not elevate any factors as core factors
- A regulation that enumerated six factors instead of five, ranked the factors, or rephrased any of the factors' wording
- Adopting the seven factors that the
   Department previously set forth in Fact Sheet
   #13 as the applicable economic realities test



### What's Next?

- Appeal the decision to the Fifth Circuit
- Start the regulatory process all over again to consider alternatives as suggested by District Court



**Wage and Hour Division** 



WHD > Wages and the Fair Labor Standards Act > Misclassification of Employees as Independent Contractors

### Misclassification of Employees as Independent Contractors

On March 14, 2022 a district court in the Eastern District of Texas vacated the Department's Delay Rule, Independent Contractor Status Under the Fair Labor Standards Act (FLSA): Delay of Effective Date, <u>86 FR 12535</u> (Mar. 4, 2021), and the Withdrawal Rule, Independent Contractor Status Under the Fair Labor Standards Act (FLSA): Withdrawal, <u>86 FR 24303</u> (May 6, 2021). The district court further stated that the Independent Contractor Rule, Independent Contractor Status Under the Fair Labor Standards Act, <u>86 FR 1168</u> (Jan. 7, 2021), became effective as of March 8, 2021, the rule's original effective date, and remains in effect.

## Will DOL Follow the 2021 Regulations?

https://www.dol.gov/agencies/whd/flsa/misclassification

## Will DOL Follow the IC Regulations?



David Weil, Former and Nominee for Wage & Hour Administrator



Jessica Looman, Acting Administrator Wage & Hour Division



Seema Nanda Solicitor of Labor Former Deputy Solicitor



Patricia Smith, Senior Counselor to the Sec'y Former Solicitor of Labor

## What's an Employer To Do?

Until resolution of an appeal or a new regulation:

- In DOL investigations and private litigation, argue for application of the Trump regulation
- When setting company policy, apply Fact Sheet #13



## January 2021 Independent Contracting Regulations

### **Economic Reality Test**

An individual is an employee "if as a matter of economic reality, the individual is economically dependent on that employer for work"

#### **Two Core Factors:**

- 1. The nature and degree of control over the work
- 2. The worker's opportunity for profit or loss

#### **Other Factors**

- 1. The amount of skill required
- 2. The degree of permanence of the relationship
- 3. Whether the work is part of an integrated unit of production

## Core Factor #1: The Nature and Degree of Control



The worker exercises substantial control over key aspects of the performance of the work by:

- Setting her own schedule
- Selecting his own projects
- Being able to work for others, including the company's competitors.

Control does not include requiring the worker:

- To comply with specific legal obligations
- Satisfy health and safety standards
- Carry insurance
- Meet contractually agreed upon deadlines

## Core Factor #2: Opportunity for Profit or Loss

The worker has an opportunity to earn profits or incur losses based on:

- Exercise of initiative (such as managerial skill or business acumen or judgment), or
- Management of her investment in or capital expenditure on, for example, helpers or equipment or material

Workers who are unable to affect earnings or is only able to do so by working more hours or faster is an employee



### **Other Factors**

#### The amount of skill required

The work requires specialized training or skill that the potential employer does not provide

#### The degree of permanence of the relationship

 The work relationship is by design definite in duration or sporadic, which may include regularly occurring fixed periods of work, although the seasonal nature of work by itself would not necessarily indicate independent contractor classification

#### Whether the work is part of an integrated unit of production

- The work is segregable from the potential employer's production process
- This factor is different from the concept of the importance or centrality of the individual's work to the potential employer's business

## Current DOL Guidance dol.gov/agencies/whd/flsa/misclassification



## **DOL Myths About Misclassification**



## Get the Facts on Misclassification



### Fact Sheet #13

- 1. The extent to which the services rendered are an integral part of the principal's business.
- 2. The permanency of the relationship.
- 3. The amount of the alleged contractor's investment in facilities and equipment.
- 4. The nature and degree of control by the principal.
- The alleged contractor's opportunities for profit and loss.
- 6. The amount of initiative, judgment, or foresight in open market competition with others required for the success of the claimed independent contractor.
- 7. The degree of independent business organization and operation.

#### U.S. Department of Labor Wage and Hour Division



#### Fact Sheet #13: Employment Relationship Under the Fair Labor Standards Act (FLSA)

On March 14, 2022 a district court in the Eastern District of Texas vacated the Department's Delay Rule, Independent Contractor Status Under the Fair Labor Standards Act (FLSA): Delay of Effective Date, <u>86 FR 12535</u> (Mar. 4, 2021), and the Withdrawal Rule, Independent Contractor Status Under the Fair Labor Standards Act (FLSA): Withdrawal, <u>86 FR 24303</u> (May 6, 2021). The district court further stated that the Independent Contractor Rule, Independent Contractor Status Under the Fair Labor Standards Act, <u>86 FR 1168</u> (Jan. 7, 2021), became effective as of March 8, 2021, the rule's original effective date, and remains in effect.

This fact sheet provides general information concerning the meaning of "employment relationship" and the significance of that determination in applying provisions of the <u>FLSA</u>.

#### Characteristics

An employment relationship under the FLSA must be distinguished from a strictly contractual one. Such a relationship must exist for any provision of the FLSA to apply to any person engaged in work which may otherwise be subject to the Act. In the application of the FLSA an employee, as distinguished from a person who is engaged in a business of his or her own, is one who, as a matter of economic reality, follows the usual path of an employee and is dependent on the business which he or she serves. The employer-employee relationship under the FLSA is tested by "economic reality" rather than "technical concepts." It is not determined by the common law standards relating to master and servant.

The U.S. Supreme Court has on a number of occasions indicated that there is no single rule or test for determining whether an individual is an independent contractor or an employee for purposes of the FLSA. The Court has held that it is the total activity or situation which controls. Among the factors which the Court has considered significant are:

- 1) The extent to which the services rendered are an integral part of the principal's business.
- The permanency of the relationship.
- 3) The amount of the alleged contractor's investment in facilities and equipment.
- 4) The nature and degree of control by the principal.
- The alleged contractor's opportunities for profit and loss.
- 6) The amount of initiative, judgment, or foresight in open market competition with others required for the success of the claimed independent contractor.
- The degree of independent business organization and operation.

There are certain factors which are immaterial in determining whether there is an employment relationship. Such facts as the place where work is performed, the absence of a formal employment agreement, or whether an alleged independent contractor is licensed by State/local government are not considered to have a bearing on determinations as to whether there is an employment relationship. Additionally, the Supreme Court has held that the time or mode of pay does not control the determination of employee status.

#### Requirements

When it has been determined that an employer-employee relationship does exist, and the employee is engaged in work that is subject to the Act, it is required that the employee be paid at least the Federal minimum wage of \$5.85 per hour effective July 24, 2007; \$6.55 per hour effective July 24, 2008; and \$7.25 per hour effective July 24, 2009, and in most

cases overtime at time and one-half his/her regular rate of pay for all hours worked in excess of 40 per week. The Act also has youth employment provisions which regulate the employment of minors under the age of eighteen, as well as recordkeeping requirements.

FS 1.

## Where do you find it?

### **Biden/Obama Guidance**

### **Trump Regulation**

#### Fact Sheet #13

• www.dol.gov/agencies/whd/flsa/misclassification

Administrator's Interpretation 2015-1

• www.blr.com/html\_email/ai2015-1.pdf

86 Federal Register 1168 (1/7/2021)

• <a href="https://www.regulations.gov/document/WHD-2020-0007-1801">https://www.regulations.gov/document/WHD-2020-0007-1801</a>

## **Compliance Chaos**

#### **Federal Tests**

- FLSA Economic Reality
- IRS Test
- Darden Common Law Test

#### **State Law Tests**

- Wage & Hour
- Unemployment
- Workers' Comp
- EEO
- Tax

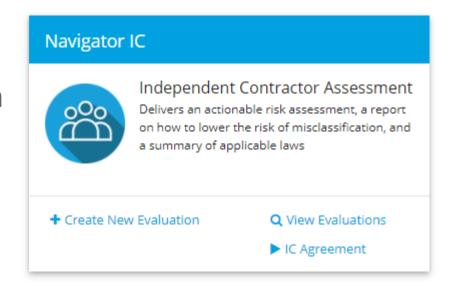
## More than 100 Different **Tests Could Apply**



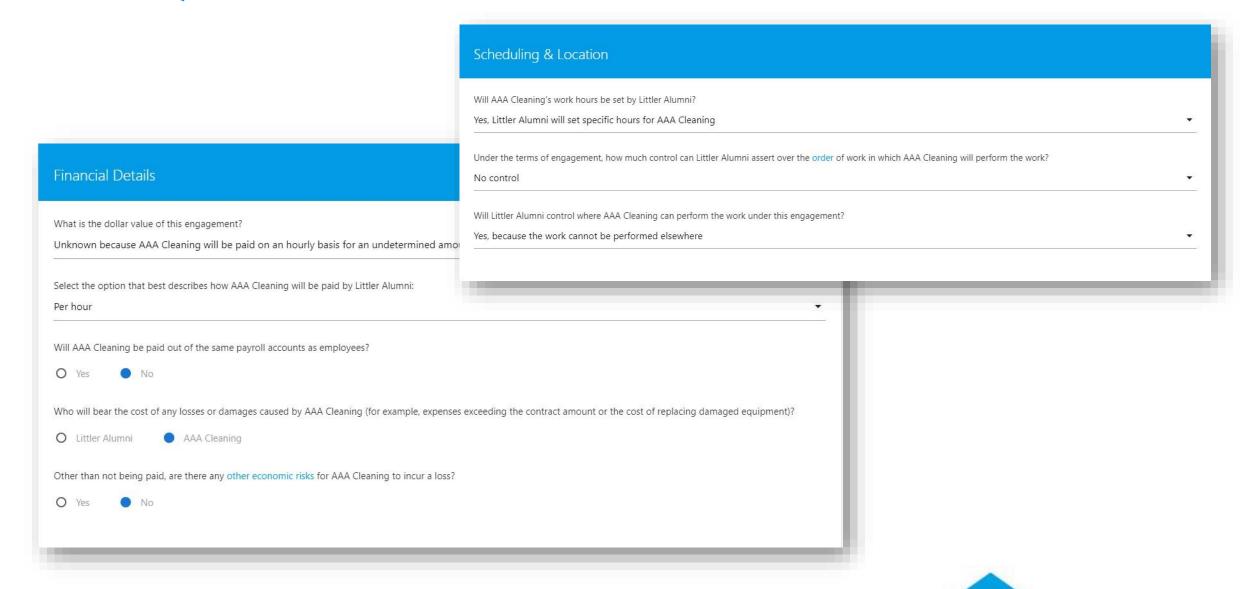


## **Navigator Independent Contractor**

- Determines employee or independent contractor status
- Draws from a proprietary engine of 1,900 reported court decisions and DOL opinion letters
- Analyzes individual fact patterns under all applicable federal and state regulations
- Delivers an actionable risk assessment, a report on how to lower the risk of misclassification, a summary of applicable laws, and a transcript of questionnaire answers



## **The Questionnaire**



## **Employee or Contractor?**



#### Compliance **HR**

#### RISK BY JURISDICTION

This report analyzes both Federal and State laws. The overall result above is the higher risk of the two. Below is a breakdown of each jurisdiction analyzed separately.

#### Federal

Under the facts provided, it is moderately likely that AAA Cleaning will be found to be an employee.

#### California

Under the facts provided, it is moderately likely that AAA Cleaning will be found to be an employee.

A Please take note that the risk analysis provided above offers a conservative result by taking into consideration the ABC test required under AB 5. This app does NOT consider if certain exceptions under AB 5 may counsel applying a less conservative test. If you believe this contractor may be able to qualify for one of the exceptions under the law, consider reaching out to Littler's AB 5 Taskforce for more information. See the Legal Summary below for more information regarding the various legal exceptions.

You have indicated that AAA Cleaning will be working in California. At least one of the legal tests for independent contractor status in California is an "ABC" or similar test, rather than a multi-factor balancing test. Under a traditional ABC test, for example, all of the following requirements must be met in order for AAA Cleaning to be regarded as an independent contractor:

- · AAA Cleaning is free from control and direction by Littler Alumni;
- The services to be performed by AAA Cleaning are either outside the usual course of Littler Alumni's business or will be performed outside of Littler Alumni's place of business;
   and
- · AAA Cleaning is customarily engaged in an independently established trade, occupation, profession or business.

Some states have fewer requirements (A & C, for example), and other states have additional or different requirements. The answers that you have provided indicate that AAA Cleaning is moderately unlikely to meet one or more of the required elements of the independent contractor test in California. For more information about each jurisdiction's test, please see the Summary of Independent Contractor Laws that is attached to the report as well as the Jurisdictional Risk Levels.

#### Compliance **HR**

#### LOWERING YOUR RISK

You may be able to lower your risk score by taking the following steps.

#### Continuing Working Relationship with the Company

Independent contractors generally do not have an ongoing relationship with the engaging company. Contractors are engaged to perform work on distinct projects for a specific period of time. In contrast, employees are typically hired for an indefinite time period. The longer the company's relationship with the contractor, the more risk that the contractor will be found to be a misclassified employee. Multiple or renewed agreements for the same work or the same project also is an indication that the contractor may be misclassified.

Littler Alumni may be able to reduce its risk score by: (1) entering a new contract for each distinct project, (2) ensuring previous engagements with AAA Cleaning were for different and distinct projects, and (3) limiting the length of its contracts to a year or less.

#### The Contractor's Economic Dependence on the Company

An independent contractor is not economically dependent on the engaging company; it operates independently of the engaging company. The success of the contractor's business is not dependent on its continued relationship with the company. An independent contractor's business will continue to exist independently of and apart from the contract, and will survive the termination of the contract. Littler Alumni may be able to reduce its risk score by ensuring that the dollar value of this engagement will not be a high percentage of AAA Cleaning 's business.

#### Method of Payment

An employee is usually paid by the hour or on a salary basis. An independent contractor is usually paid a flat amount for the task, job or project. In other words, employees are paid based on the amount of time they work, while independent contractors are paid based on the results of their work. Also, while employees are paid from payroll accounts, independent



## Thank you!



