



Tina Tufano Elected President of ASPPA Benefits Council's New England Chapter

Hooker & Holcombe is pleased to announce Tina Tufano, senior ERISA compliance specialist for the firm's retirement services group, was elected president of ASPPA Benefits Council (ABC) New England for the 2018-2019 term. [Read full release](#)

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GASB Issues Implementation Guide for OPEB Reporting Standards

The Governmental Accounting Standards Board (GASB) has issued a new Implementation Guide that contains questions and answers about the GASB's new standards on accounting and financial reporting for post-employment benefits other than pensions. [Read more>](#)

Tax Reform Fuels DB Plan Accelerated Funding

Since, under tax reform, the corporate tax rate will be lower in the future than what had previously been in effect, more voluntary defined benefit (DB) plan contribution activity is expected. [Read more>](#)

PBGC Participant and Plan Sponsor Advocate Issues 2017 Report

The Pension Benefit Guaranty Corporation (PBGC)'s Participant and Plan Sponsor Advocate, Constance Donovan, has sent the report on the activities of her office in 2017 to Congress. The report highlights its activities concerning participant claims, multiemployer plans, plan sponsor issues and pension de-risking. [Read more>](#)



Steady Fixed-Income Outlook for 2018

With a new Fed chair and expectations for rising rates, 2018 will be a year to focus on fixed income portfolios. [Read more>](#)

House GOP Guns For DOL Fiduciary Rule

GOP leaders, fresh off their tax reform victory, are banking on Washington's anti-regulation climate to help them pass a rider in a House spending bill that would completely vacate the U.S. Department of Labor's fiduciary rule. [Read more>](#)

How to Best Understand Target Date Fund Options

Thanks to the overwhelming popularity of target date funds as a 401(k) qualified default investment alternative, competition among retirement plan asset managers for TDF dollars has been stiff. But as the Department of Labor emphasized in guidance issued way back in 2013, plan sponsors need to ask a lot of questions to be sure they understand how a TDF family is managed to know whether it's appropriate for their participants across the entire age spectrum. [Read more>](#)

How Did 401k Assets Fare in Third Quarter?

A booming economy in part contributed to a further rise in 401k balances, as well as retirement assets overall. [Read more>](#)

Four Ways to Change 401(k) Plans For the Better

Over the past few months, 401(k) plans have been in the news a lot. At one point, Republicans floated the idea of drastically lowering the maximum that employees could contribute. And this week, President Trump asked once again how everyone's 401(k) plans are doing as a result of the rising stock market. [Read more>](#)

Newsworthy notes



New employees:

- We are pleased to announce two additions to our firm. Morgan Mackiewicz has joined as accounts payable/receivable clerk in Administrative Services and Mollie Heller has joined as actuarial student in the Actuarial Services unit.

Promotions:

- Gwen Zhu has been promoted to Senior Actuarial Analyst
- Kim Thayer has been promoted to Senior Actuarial Analyst
- Ted LaBorde has been promoted to Actuarial Specialist

In our communities:

- We are proud to support The Bridge Family Center Children's Charity Ball