<u>Labor Cost Reduction Options for Employers</u> <u>in a Distressed Economy: The CARES Act and</u> <u>Other Considerations</u>

The Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act ("CARES Act"), which was enacted on March 27, 2020, created new programs and expanded existing programs in ways that significantly affect the options for employers. This alert identifies key aspects of the CARES Act that can affect employers' decisions in managing payroll costs during this challenging period. This alert also reviews other considerations for employers, including federal and state plant closing laws and Fair Labor Standards Act ("FLSA") requirements. This alert focuses on considerations based on federal law and the laws of California, Massachusetts and New York.

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<u>Update: How Life Sciences Companies Can</u> <u>Assess Stay-At-Home Restrictions in MA and</u> CT

Over the past week, the governors of several states have issued "stay-at-home" orders to combat the spread of the coronavirus known as COVID-19. These stay-at-home orders significantly limit freedom of movement within the affected states and instruct businesses to institute remote work solutions for their employees—or else to shut their doors entirely.

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COVID-19: Business Interruption and Insurance Amid a Pandemic

Businesses in the United States and around the world are undergoing a fundamental and unprecedented disruption as a result of the coronavirus pandemic (COVID-19). State governments have issued "shelter-in-place" and "stay-at-home" orders to the general population, postponed or otherwise cancelled schools in full, and shut down all businesses except those deemed "essential" or "critical" to the maintenance of our country. These actions have already caused dramatic losses of income to business, and those losses will continue to grow as the actions necessary to combat the coronavirus continue to take hold. Fortunately, businesses may have an avenue available to them to recoup some or all of these losses through business interruption coverage in commercial property insurance.

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The Implications of Coronavirus (COVID-19) On Contractual Performance and Negotiations

We encourage our clients to be proactive in responding to the potential impact of COVID-19 on both existing and potential business agreements and relationships. Now that the World Health Organization has formally classified the outbreak of COVID-19 as a pandemic, and the full spread of the virus remains uncertain, it is important that businesses consider the potential implications of the virus on negotiation and performance of their contracts. Whether you are planning to negotiate or currently negotiating contractual agreements, or whether your

commercial operations and relationships have already felt the impact of this novel coronavirus, there are several considerations to keep in mind to ensure the smooth operation of your business and to mitigate the potential for litigation amid a pandemic. This alert discusses those considerations.

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