President Obama’s election last year has led to the “rebirth of labor relations” in the federal sector as agencies and unions for the first time in eight years prepare to bargain in earnest, Carol Waller Pope, chair of the Federal Labor Relations Authority (FLRA) says. With the recent confirmation of Ernest DuBester to the FLRA, bringing the three-member FLRA back to full strength and the confirmation of Julia Akins Carl as general counsel, the authority is “back in business,” with appointees who “understand the substance of the law” and have experience with alternative dispute resolution, Pope says. So far in 2009, FLRA has issued 215 merits decisions, more than the past two years combined. Pope made her remarks at the Third Annual CLE Conference of the ABA’s Labor and Employment Law Section.