FEDERAL LABOR COUNCIL ESTABLISHED

An executive order issued by President Obama establishes a new National Council on Federal Labor-Management Relations, which in turn is responsible for creating “labor-management forums” across the government to enable federal agency managers and union representatives to discuss agency operations in a “nonadversarial” setting. The order does not require bargaining over permissive topics, such as the numbers, types, and grades of employees and the technology, means, and methods used to perform work. However, language in the order calling for the establishment of pilot programs to test the efficacy of such bargaining has been tightened, specifying for example that pilot programs “shall be established” rather than merely calling for the council to provided recommendations on the establishment of the programs.
