

**Issue Editor:**

**Charles J. Morton, Jr.**  
cjmorton@Venable.com  
410.244.7716

Venable attorneys produce periodic alerts and newsletters covering a variety of topics and practice areas. For your convenience, we have assembled below a collection of the latest alerts and newsletters from December 2014.

**In This Issue:**

**Allyson B. Baker**  
abbaker@Venable.com  
202.344.4708

**Keir X. Bancroft**  
kxbancroft@Venable.com  
202.344.4826

**Jamie Barnett, Rear Admiral (Ret.)**  
jbarnett@Venable.com  
202.344.4695

**Ashley W. Craig**  
awcraig@Venable.com  
202.344.4351

**Frederick M. Joyce**  
rjoyce@Venable.com  
202.344.4653

**Lindsay B. Meyer**  
lbmeyer@Venable.com  
202.344.4829

**Douglas B. Mishkin**  
dbmishkin@Venable.com  
202.344.4491

**Ralph E. Sharpe**  
resharpe@Venable.com  
202.344.4344

**D. E. Wilson, Jr.**  
dewilson@Venable.com  
202.344.4819

**Andrew E. Bigart**

## Obama Announces Sea Change for Cuba Relations, Trade, and Travel Policy

Following successful prisoner exchanges, the Obama Administration announced plans to normalize diplomatic relations with Cuba, including by opening a US embassy in Havana. The US will also ease restrictions currently administered by the Department of Treasury's Office of Foreign Assets Control, write Venable attorneys [Ashley W. Craig](#), [Lindsay B. Meyer](#), [Jamie Barnett](#), [Frederick M. Joyce](#), and [Amanda C. Blunt](#). Revision of the Cuban Assets Control Regulations and the Export Administration Regulations administered by the Department of Commerce's Bureau of Industry and Security will increase access to markets restricted since the 1959 Cuban revolution.

[Click here to find out which agencies will need to update their licensing policies with respect to Cuba.](#)

## Russian Roulette: Congress Gives President Discretion to Impose New Sanctions Against Russia

The White House has announced that President Obama plans to sign The Ukraine Freedom Support Act of 2014, which passed the Senate and House unanimously last month. The Act, write Venable attorneys [Lindsay B. Meyer](#), [Ashley W. Craig](#), [Carrie A. Kroll](#), and [Matthew R. Rabinowitz](#), would build on current sanctions against Russia in response to the country's ongoing interference in Ukraine.

[Click here for a summary of the new sanctions.](#)

## For Government Contractors, 2015 Is In Full Swing: New Cyber-Incident Reporting Requirements, IT Acquisition Reform, and Strategic Sourcing Top Developments for the Coming Year

Contractors with their eyes on hot-button issues such as cybersecurity legislation, information technology (IT) acquisition reform, and strategic sourcing policy, write Venable attorneys [Keir X. Bancroft](#) and [Christina K. Scopin](#), have plenty to consider in the 2015 National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA) and a recent policy memorandum issued by Office of Management and Budget (OMB) Administrator Anne Rung.

[Click here to read key items contractors should consider in the new year.](#)

aebigart@Venable.com  
202.344.4323

**Amanda C. Blunt**  
acblunt@Venable.com  
202.344.4328

**Joanna P. Breslow Boyd**  
jpboyd@Venable.com  
202.344.4751

**Sandi Pessin Boyd**  
sboyd@Venable.com  
202.344.4525

**Peter S. Frechette**  
psfrechette@Venable.com  
202.344.4616

**Carrie A. Kroll**  
cakroll@Venable.com  
202.344.4574

**Matthew R. Rabinowitz**  
mrrabinowitz@Venable.com  
202.344.4228

**Christina K. Scopin**  
ckscopin@Venable.com  
703.760.1669



## Regulatory Update on Recent FinCEN Anti-Money Laundering Developments

Venable attorneys **D. E. Wilson, Jr.**, **Ralph E. Sharpe**, and **Andrew E. Bigart** summarize three recent anti-money laundering (AML) developments highlighting the federal government's continuing efforts to include non-bank financial institutions within the scope of AML laws.

[Click here for details on FinCEN's latest activities.](#)

## CFPB and DOJ Teaming Up in Enforcement and Other CFPB Updates

Consumer Financial Protection Bureau investigational fact finding might yield evidence for civil lawsuits brought by the Bureau and potential evidence for criminal matters prosecuted by the Department of Justice. In addition to the monetary relief and civil money penalties the CFPB can impose, write Venable attorneys **Allyson B. Baker**, **Joanna P. Breslow Boyd**, and **Peter S. Frechette**, the Consumer Financial Protection Act provides that if the CFPB "obtains evidence" of conduct that "may constitute a violation of Federal criminal law, the Bureau shall transmit such evidence" to the DOJ.

[Click for an overview of recent enforcement actions that demonstrate how the CFPB and DOJ are working together to investigate and prosecute violations of consumer protection laws.](#)

## DC Employers Subject to New Notice Requirement and Bigger Penalties under New Wage Theft Prevention Act

As anticipated, the DC City Council passed an emergency amendment to the Wage Theft Prevention Amendment Act of 2014. The emergency amendment limits fines for negligent violations and for willful violations. Venable attorneys **Douglas B. Mishkin** and **Sandi Pessin Boyd** write that the amendment also fixes a problem with the original Act, which creates joint and several liability of general contractors for violations by their subcontractors, and of temporary staffing firms and their clients.

[Click here for more information on the Wage Theft Prevention Act and subsequent amendment.](#)

## Upcoming Events

### Cross-Border Money Transfers: Key Requirements Every US-Based Nonprofit Needs to Know – Washington, DC and Webinar

Wednesday, January 7, 2015 | 12:00 p.m. - 2:00 p.m. ET

The expansion of activity – including financial transactions – by US-based nonprofits overseas continues to increase, raising a complex host of US and foreign regulatory, tax, and other issues. These international financial transactions are subject to an array of requirements, which can pose significant risks to US-based nonprofits if not followed.

[Click here to learn more and register.](#)

### Consumer Financial Protection Bureau 2015 Outlook – Webinar

Thursday, January 8, 2015 | 12:00 p.m. - 1:30 p.m. ET

Please join Venable LLP for a complimentary webinar on the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau 2015 Outlook. Members of Venable's **CFPB Task Force** will review the current state of federal consumer financial protection law and policy and outline what you and your company need to know about what's



ahead. During the webinar, the speakers will share their experiences from the front lines and offer strategies to help you navigate the evolving legal and regulatory landscape.

[Click here to learn more and register.](#)

### **Nonprofit Executive Forum - Industry Insights for Nonprofit Federal Award Recipients: Guidance & Tools for Surviving the OMB Supercircular – Washington, DC**

Wednesday, January 14, 2015 | 8:30 a.m. – 5:00 p.m. ET

Venable LLP, BDO USA LLP, and Federal Publications Seminars are pleased to invite you to this Nonprofit Executive Forum discussing tips, strategies, and best practices for nonprofit federal grant, cooperative agreement, and contract recipients in implementing the new OMB Uniform Guidance requirements (the Supercircular).

[Click here to learn more and register.](#)

### **CFPB Supervision: Smart Strategies for Getting Ready – Webinar**

Wednesday, January 14, 2015 | 1:00 p.m. - 2:30 p.m. ET

Please join us for a complimentary webinar on CFPB supervision best practices. We will leverage the experience of practitioners from Venable LLP, the Financial Services Roundtable (FSR), Promontory Financial Group, and Debevoise and Plimpton LLP to discuss topics such as "good" compliance management systems from the CFPB's perspective; likely areas of supervisory focus, including fair lending, add-on products, and debt collection; the Washington perspective; and managing your relationship with the CFPB.

[Click here to learn more and register.](#)

### **Disaster Recovery and Resilience: Tips, Techniques and Best Practices for Public and Private Organizations – New York, NY**

Tuesday, January 27, 2015 | 8:30 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. ET

Join us for a complimentary, full-day program drawing upon the lessons learned from the World Trade Center, Hurricane Sandy, and other occurrences, presented by Venable's [Real Estate](#), [Environmental](#), and [Government Contracts](#) practices and The New School.

[Click here to learn more and register.](#)

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Venable's Corporate Group attorneys have been [nationally and regionally ranked](#) in *Chambers USA*, *Chambers Global*, *Super Lawyers*, *Legal 500*, and *U.S. News - Best Lawyers*.

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