

Press Coverage | January 27, 2026

## More Gig Workers Could See Rights Without Status Change

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Richard Reibstein, a partner in Troutman Pepper Locke's Independent Contractor Misclassification + Compliance Practice Group, was quoted in the January 27, 2026 *Law360* article, "[More Gig Workers Could See Rights Without Status Change](#)."

Richard Reibstein of management-side firm Troutman Pepper Locke LLP, who focuses on the independent contractor classification issue, pointed to app-based gig workers who he said appear to share similarities to the grocery delivery workers who now have minimum pay in New York City.

"People who do errands are under the same time imperatives as people who do shopping in grocery stores, and therefore may be, in my view, the next type of gig worker that is the subject of potential legislation," he said.

Other app-based gig workers who could receive added protections include those who do repairs, housekeeping and take care of people's pets, Reibstein added.

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However, added protections could mean increased costs for consumers, Troutman's Reibstein said.

"Eventually, all of these increased wages and benefits available to app-based gig workers result in higher cost to the consumer," he said. "And higher cost to the consumer oftentimes means less consumer demand, which translates into less services provided by the apps."

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