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# The Jolly Roger Meets the Jobsite: A Workers' Compensation Voyage

## SPEAKERS

Tracey E. Diamond | Emily E. Schifter

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In this episode of *Hiring to Firing*, hosts Tracey Diamond and Emily Schifter explore the surprising roots and real-world complexities of workers' compensation law, drawing a playful throughline from pirate "articles" of old, to the movie chain, *Pirates of the Caribbean*, to today's patchwork of state laws. Joined by Todd Wachtel, workers' compensation specialist and partner at Levinson Axelrod, they explore key employer and employee obligations, insurance and reporting requirements, and how classification decisions (employee vs. independent contractor) can make or break coverage. The conversation highlights the interplay between workers' compensation and OSHA, ADA, and FMLA, common pitfalls and retaliation risks, and practical steps to keep workplaces shipshape. Tune in for actionable takeaways to help employers navigate coverage, compliance, and claims with confidence.

Troutman Pepper Locke's [Labor + Employment Practice Group](#) provides comprehensive thought leadership through various channels. We regularly issue advisories that offer timely insights into the evolving employment law landscape, and maintain the [HiringToFiring.Law Blog](#), a resource spotlighting best practices for employers. Our [Hiring to Firing Podcast](#), hosted by Tracey Diamond and Emily Schifter, delves into pressing labor and employment law topics, drawing unique parallels from pop culture, hit shows, and movies.

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