

Arizona Law Firm Fighting Legal Issues that Businesses Are Encountering During COVID-19 Pandemic

The COVID-19 pandemic has changed life for many — both individuals and businesses. The legal team at <u>Denton Peterson</u> has spent time preparing to deal with some of the thornier aspects of the disruptions caused to businesses by the virus, such as broken contracts, employment disputes from furloughed or laid off employees, real estate difficulties, and more.

Brad Denton, a partner at Denton Peterson and <u>experienced legal professional who handles litigation and other matters for businesses</u>, has been working constantly with clients about what to watch out for and how to protect your business interests during these trying times. Mr. Denton pointed out that COVID-19 can create or worsen many different legal problems that businesses must confront. Among the most significant are employment issues, contract issues, and real estate issues.

Employment Law

As a <u>veteran lawyer who manages employment law matters for employees & employers</u>, Denton pointed out that both parties have to pay attention to their rights. The main thing that employers have to adhere to is the Fair Labor Standards Act. "Those laws can be fairly draconian," Denton noted. "An employee who doesn't receive minimum wage, or in this case emergency sick leave, is entitled to receive double pay, along with any attorney fees."

Breach of Contract

There are many types of contracts that can be affected by the pandemic. A good proportion of written contracts have contingency provisions, but as Denton says, "COVID-19 isn't your average contingency. Many businesses with contractual agreements will experience significant upheaval as a result of the new scenarios caused by this virus."

Real Estate

Real estate has also been hit hard by the pandemic. "Everything from the sale and purchase of land to rental agreements is being impacted," Denton pointed out. "Already, eviction and foreclosure proceedings have been substantially altered in response to COVID-19. It's crucial to have a lawyer who knows the issues."

Laws in all the above areas are in flux as the situation changes and the pandemic develops. Denton, <u>experienced in dealing with litigation and negotiation for a variety of real estate legal matters</u>, pointed out that different parties in Washington are still fighting over the interpretation of existing laws, and what new laws are needed. He said that in the event of uncertainty, it was best for people to stay informed by consulting with a business attorney with the necessary experience, and staying abreast of the firm's blog for the latest news.

Everyone has been affected by this in one way another and it's a very trying time. One factor contributing to continuity in Arizona is the fact that courts are still open for at least some business. "Luckily, the judicial system in Arizona continues to operate and can handle many of the new issues that will be created by COVID-19, and we've been working on our clients' cases during this difficult time," Denton said. "Not all areas of the country are so fortunate."

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