



Portland Lawyer Weighs In on Legal Responsibilities of Restaurateurs

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Nation's Restaurant News turned to **Clarence Belnavis** for guidance on how layoffs could have legal implications for restaurants. Some operators are laying off or furloughing workers, or temporarily shutting down operations altogether, but those short-term solutions could have long-term legal repercussions if employers don't follow WARN Act requirements.

The WARN Act requires many employers to notify local officials as well as employees in advance of large-scale termination. However, Clarence explained that "it's possible — even likely — that the COVID-19 outbreak could classify as an exception, either as a "natural disaster" or an "unforeseen business circumstance" where notification may not be required.

To read the full article, visit [*Nation's Restaurant News*](#).

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