

## Exercise Caution Concerning Holiday Parties

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It's no surprise that in today's tough economic climate many employers are cutting back on holiday celebrations. And while business owners intend to thank employees for the year's hard work, they often disregard the liabilities involved in throwing a company bash for their staff. But employers should be aware of the potential pitfalls of cutting back on celebrations. Employers should prepare for possible legal issues that could make for an unpleasant event or even get them sued. While companies may want to cut costs, they must take preventative action before the party starts to avoid legal trouble.

Here are a few potential pitfalls to avoid:

- Mixing Layoffs with a Lavish Party
- Beware if Boss is Supplying the Booze
- Be Cautious if Cutting Out the Professional Bartender
- Clarify Guidelines if Hosting the Party at Work
- Consider Alternative Celebrations
- Don't Assume Signed Releases Mean You're Off the Hook
- Avoid Offensive White Elephant Gifts

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