

▶ LABJ FORUM

## Sick Rules

A proposed state law would require that employers grant sick pay, but it also encourages lawsuits over the issue. So the Business Journal asks:

**Should the government mandate sick pay, even if it means more lawsuits?**

▶ **RIGGS ECKELBERRY**

*Chief Executive  
OriginOil*

The new playing field is technology, and in technology we are competing with other high-care countries such as those in Europe, where sick days are routinely paid. If America wants to be competitive, it needs to take care of the people the way the Europeans do.

▶ **ROB BABEK**

*Partner in Charge  
Marcum*

I believe the state should require employers to provide their employees with a fixed number of vacation/sick days. Once an employee has used

them all in one calendar year, then any additional days off whether for vacation or illness would be treated as unpaid leave.

▶ **RICK CARUSO**

*Chief Executive  
Caruso Affiliated*

No. It should be a function of free enterprise; it should be an employer's choice. What we do is we give a certain amount of personal days that people can use for travel or sick days and it's up to employees to manage how to run

their lives. There are way too many laws mandating way too many things that don't add up to more productivity; it doesn't make the work environment any better.

▶ **SID LEVIN**

*Owner  
Levin Agency*

If you're sick physically or mentally, you should be paid. You want to have a happy work environment where everyone is doing the extra bit for you. I also believe a business owner should do something above and beyond to keep their employees healthy – let your employees walk around for 15 or 20 minutes if it keeps them healthier and keeps them happier.

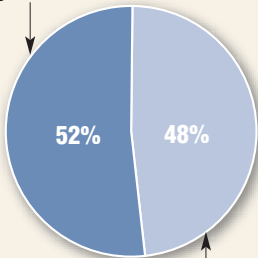


Caruso

**Los Angeles Business Journal Poll**

Should the government mandate sick pay, even if it means more lawsuits?:

That's outrageous and the last thing we need.



Sick time for employees is necessary and more lawsuits are an acceptable risk.

Online results for week ended April 23.



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