



Happy New Year!

Thanks to our wonderful supporters (see below), the Pension Rights Center is off to a great start in 2019. We are so, so grateful to all of you. Here are some recent happenings:



PRC quoted in the *New York Times*: PRC was prominently mentioned in a [December 20 New York Times article](#) that highlighted efforts made by a special congressional committee to address the multiemployer pension plan crisis. PRC's Executive Vice President Karen Friedman was quoted as saying, "We're hoping (Congress) can find a fair, comprehensive solution that can save these plans, the PBGC and protect workers and retirees."



Fighting unfair church plan conversions: PRC Director Karen Ferguson and Senior Policy Advisor Norman Stein submitted [a friend-of-the-court brief](#) to the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Seventh Circuit in *Smith v. OSF Healthcare System*. The brief contends that legislative language and history conclusively show that Congress did not intend to deny insurance and other federal law protections to nurses, teachers, and social workers who earned pensions under plans established by religiously-affiliated hospitals, schools and social service agencies. Only the plans of churches and the pension boards they created to run the plans were exempted from ERISA.



Explaining what government agencies do: The Center’s Legal Program Director Emily Spreiser wrote a [series of five blog posts](#) called “Know Your Agencies,” to help people find government agencies that can help them address problems with private retirement plans.



Getting the word out about legislative proposals: Jane Smith, PRC’s Policy Analyst, [summarized some of the provisions](#) included in several bills introduced in the last Congress related to IRAs and 401 (k)-type retirement savings plans. Her blog was re-posted by [401\(k\)specialist](#).

Thanks to our supporters!

As a nonprofit organization we depend on our loyal supporters to keep us going. We gratefully thank all of you, both big and small contributors, for helping us to continue advocating for workers and retirees.

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