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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Department of Labor Announces Date for Workers to Return to the Office

WASHINGTON, DC, October 22, 2024 – The United States Department of Labor has announced December 1, 2024 as the date for their remote employees to return to the office. Last November, the Labor Department originally scheduled remote employees to go into the office for at least five days per biweekly pay period starting in January of 2024. The department postponed this date while negotiation of the implementation continued with the National Council of Field Labor Locals (NCFLL), the Labor Department's largest employee union that represents nearly two-thirds of the Labor Department's 15,000 employees. The NCFLL is accusing Labor Department Acting Secretary Julie Su of refusing to negotiate the return to office and instead just picking a date for the employees to return. The new rule will require all non-bargaining unit employees outside of the Washington, DC region and all members of the union to be in the office for five days of a biweekly pay period. The NCFLL also has an appeal of the ruling on remote workers pending before the Federal Labor Relations Authority (FLRA). Officials with the NCFLL say they filed the appeal because the Labor Department claimed the proposals from the NCFLL were non-negotiable. They say the FLRA gets to decide if a proposal is negotiable and not the Labor Department.

What:

- Management with the Department of Labor and the National Council of Field Labor Locals have been negotiating the implementation of this new rule since it was announced last year.
- Labor Department Acting Secretary Julie Su said in an email announcing the new rule that she does not take the decision lightly and understands the possible change to employee's work-life balance.
- This rule would not impact the more than 100 employees who are part of the National Union of Labor Investigators.

Who: Tully Rinckey PLLC federal employment attorneys can speak on how this new rule will impact federal employees who work for the Labor Department.

Where: Tully Rinckey PLLC's attorneys are available for interviews via phone, videoconferencing, or in person.

To speak with one of Tully Rinckey's federal employment attorneys about this topic, please contact **Scott Brewster** at (518) 640-1261 or via email at sbrewster@tullylegal.com

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