



New York State Department of Labor
David A. Paterson, Governor
M. Patricia Smith, Commissioner

August 1, 2008

[REDACTED]

Re: Request for Opinion
RO-08-0097

Dear [REDACTED]:

This letter is written in response to yours of July 24, 2008, in which you state that your employer of thirteen years has advised you that your employment will be terminated as of August 31, 2008. You have enclosed a copy of a document that you describe as your employment contract and ask for this office's assistance in understanding your rights, and what you can and cannot do. You are apparently specifically asking if you may go to work for any of your current employer's competitors. Unfortunately, this office cannot answer this question.

The Counsel's Office of the New York State Department of Labor is the attorney for the Commissioner of Labor. This Office provides legal advice only to the Commissioner of Labor and her representatives. Although this Office provides the general public with interpretations of the New York State Labor Law as a courtesy, it cannot provide interpretations of private contracts.

Accordingly, you should contact a private attorney of your choice for an answer to your questions. I'm sorry that we could not be of any further assistance to you.

Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jeffrey G. Shapiro".

Jeffrey G. Shapiro
Associate Attorney

JGS:da
cc: Carmine Ruberto

Phone: (518) 457-4380 Fax: (518) 485-1819
W. Averell Harriman State Office Campus, Bldg. 12, Room 509, Albany, NY 12240