



the work and family legal center

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**February 24, 2015**

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**NEW WEB-BASED TOOL PROVIDES INDIVIDUALIZED INFORMATION  
TO HELP WORKERS UNDERSTAND NYC EARNED SICK TIME ACT**

***A Better Balance and Georgetown University Law Center Announce Interactive  
“Earned Sick Time Advisor” for New York City Workers***

NEW YORK CITY—A Better Balance, the Georgetown University Law Center, and Neota Logic Inc. today announced the New York City Earned Sick Time Advisor – [abetterbalance.org/web/advisor](http://abetterbalance.org/web/advisor) – an interactive web-based tool that provides individualized information to help workers understand and exercise paid sick time.

Last year, workers in New York City became eligible under the Earned Sick Time Act (ESTA) to earn and use sick time for personal or family health needs. The law, passed in May 2013 and expanded in February 2014, gave access to paid sick time to almost 1.2 million New Yorkers who previously had none. Moreover, the act created for the first time a legal right to a minimum amount of paid sick time for 3.4 million workers in New York City.

“This is an important new resource for workers to more easily understand the benefits available to them,” said Sherry Leiwant, Co-President of A Better Balance, a legal advocacy organization that helped to lead the campaign for sick time in New York City. “While New York City is leading the way on paid sick time, we continue to work to enact similar protections in other cities and states.”

Through a series of plain-language questions, the Advisor allows workers to determine for themselves whether they qualify for paid or unpaid sick time, how many hours they have accrued, and when they may begin using it. Students at Georgetown University Law Center working with A Better Balance and Neota Logic, an application development firm, created the Advisor.

Under the ESTA, eligible employees accrue one hour of sick time for every 30 hours worked, up to a maximum of 40 hours of sick time in a year. While most private sector employees are covered, a few specialized groups are exempted and some smaller employers are only required to provide unpaid time off. All covered workers are protected against being fired or punished for using or requesting their sick time.

Through its legal clinic, A Better Balance offers a wide range of free legal services to help low-income workers understand and enforce their rights under the Earned Sick Time Act. The team at A Better Balance is available at 212-430-5982 to answer questions raised by the Earned Sick Time Advisor and provide assistance in filing complaints with the Department of Consumer Affairs, which enforces the law, where needed. The Advisor is available by navigating to <http://www.abetterbalance.org/web/advisor>.

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*About A Better Balance: A Better Balance is a national legal advocacy organization dedicated to promoting fairness in the workplace and helping workers meet the conflicting demands of work and family. Through legislative advocacy, litigation, research, public education and technical assistance to state and local campaigns, A Better Balance is committed to helping workers care for their families without risking their economic security.*