

**Howard Pianko** is a partner in the New York office of Seyfarth Shaw, LLP. His specialization in ERISA fiduciary and pension investment matters began in the early 1980's when he led the effort that resulted in the seminal advisory opinion from the Department of Labor with respect to the ERISA aspects of trading by plans in financial futures contracts. He has represented clients before the Department of Labor with respect to advisory opinions, prohibited transactions and other matters. Many of his speeches (he co-chairs an annual pension investment conference) and writings focus on pension investment, plan governance and fiduciary responsibility. He advises on the documents and issues related to alternative investments (private equity, hedge funds, real estate, etc.) by plans subject to ERISA. He advises plan sponsors, committees and other fiduciaries with respect to best practices in terms of plan governance and has extensive experience in the design and drafting of charters and related policies, as well as the review of investment guidelines, investment management agreements, etc. He is a Charter Fellow in the American College of Employee Benefits Counsel, has been an IPEBLA member since the initial 1987 meeting and has been recognized for his professional expertise by, among others, Best Lawyers in America, Chambers and Super Lawyers.