

# Work for Us – Or Else: The Rise of Noncompete Contracts

Some companies have taken the idea of demanding loyalty through noncompetition agreements a bit too far, writes **Alan Greenblatt** in ***Governing***.

“They are forcing workers at all levels of the business to sign noncompete agreements, barring them from leaving to join another company in the same field for a specified period of years. Those contracts may be defensible for the head of research at a pharmaceutical company, or even a top-flight software engineer, but sandwich makers, yoga instructors and summer camp counselors have also been prevented from jumping to competitors,” according to Greenblatt.

He quotes Evan Starr, a management professor at the University of Maryland: “If only CEOs were signing these, I don’t think anybody would care about it.”

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