

**Chapter 9****The MINER Act: Keeping Out of Trouble****John M. Williams****Deanna L. Talwalkar***Rajkovich, Williams, Kilpatrick & True, PLLC***Lexington, Kentucky****Synopsis**

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**§ 9.01. Introduction.**

In 2006, underground coal mine accidents in West Virginia and Kentucky brought underground coal mine safety to the forefront of the national news and legislative agendas. On June 15, 2006, the Mine Improvement and New Emergency Response (“MINER”) Act of 2006<sup>1</sup> became law, substantially amending the Federal Mine Safety and Health Act of 1977<sup>2</sup> (the “Mine Act”). The impact on underground coal mining was immediate and continues two years after passage of the MINER Act.

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<sup>1</sup> Mine Improvement and New Emergency Response Act of 2006, Pub.L. No. 109-236, § 2803, 120 Stat. 493 (2006).

<sup>2</sup> 30 U.S.C. § 801, *et. seq.*