



CAPABILITIES / LABOR & EMPLOYMENT

## Employment Litigation

Our team works collaboratively with clients, developing a tailored approach to achieving the best possible outcomes while minimizing costs and the disruption of the workplace.

### OVERVIEW

*“We are in the trenches with our clients, passionately advocating to achieve their desired outcomes in a cost-conscious manner.”*

— Stacey Pitcher

Employment litigation is complex, costly, and time-consuming. As a result, it is vital to partner with counsel at the outset to develop a strategy geared toward the unique challenges and business needs of the client. We advocate for employers before state and federal courts and agencies on workplace related claims and collective actions, such as discrimination, harassment, retaliation, family medical leave, wage and hour, employee benefits, defamation, breach of contract, intentional or negligent infliction of emotional distress, and other high-exposure claims and disputes.

### Our Value

Our attorneys come from diverse backgrounds, including small sophisticated boutiques, large international firms, municipal government, and in-house counsel. As a result, our breadth and depth of knowledge and experience enable us to respond to a threat, develop a game plan, and implement a winning strategy. We leverage the tools afforded by Obermayer a full-service firm to address the complex web of issues that arise with litigation.

Clients appreciate that we handle employment litigation in an effective, efficient, and economical manner. We are practical litigators, working cooperatively and strategically with our clients to develop solutions that take into account hard costs, such as fees and expenses, and soft costs, such as risks to our client’s credibility or reputation in the marketplace.

## Our Clients

We represent employers, directors, officers, and management employees, from small family-owned businesses to Fortune 50 companies in a variety of industries. Our clients rely on us in the most vulnerable situations to provide immediate feedback, counsel, and solutions. While there are situations where legal action is unavoidable, we are often able resolve the issues at hand without litigation and the associated costs.

## Our Focus

We leverage our battle-tested team to make immediate strategic strides when litigation is unavoidable. Our experience in a variety of forums enables us to use our significant substantive and procedural knowledge to achieve optimal results, as defined by the client.

Early case assessment is key to our successful defense of employment litigation claims and disputes. This strategy reduces costs by changing the focus from processing a lawsuit to addressing and resolving the underlying business problem. By partnering with our clients, we redefine what constitutes favorable case resolution and chart a strategy that meets both business and litigation objectives.

Understanding and avoiding the costs of litigation, as well as the risks associated with a jury trial, can make settling a case attractive. On the other hand, there are times when the issues strike at the heart of a company's character or mission, and settling becomes the last choice. If appropriate, we use the fully array of alternative dispute resolution options to obtain the client's desired outcome in a strategic and efficient manner.

## Awards Won\*



\*[Click here](#) for a description of the standard or methodology on which the awards and honors are based. No aspect of this advertisement is approved by the Supreme Court of New Jersey.

**EXPERIENCE**

- We represented a mid-sized employer in a sexual harassment and assault case, when an administrative assistant alleged that, due to the assault and harassment, she suffered a stroke in the workplace. Damages were estimated \$5-7 million. We successfully defended the case before the workers compensation commission, at the agency level, and, ultimately, got the federal case dismissed.
- After a three-day bench trial, we obtained a defense verdict on behalf of our client on claims asserted by a former employee that he was owed money for unpaid wages and commissions.
- We successfully tried claims of retaliation and wrongful termination in federal court and received a favorable jury verdict for our client. The demand immediately prior to trial was well over \$200,000.

**ATTORNEYS**

**Key Contacts**

**Michael S. Pepperman**

PARTNER  
215.665.3032  
michael.pepperman@obermayer.com

**Matthew A. Green**

PARTNER  
856.857.1413  
matthew.green@obermayer.com

**Melissa K. Atkins**

PARTNER  
215.665.3146  
melissa.atkins@obermayer.com

**Ivo J. Becica**

PARTNER  
215.667.6335  
ivo.becica@obermayer.com

**Daniel P. Finegan**

PARTNER  
215.665.3166  
daniel.finegan@obermayer.com

**Bruce C. Fox**

PARTNER  
412.288.2462  
bruce.fox@obermayer.com

**Derek S. Green**

OF COUNSEL  
215.665.3080  
Derek.Green@obermayer.com

**Steven A. Haber**

PARTNER  
215.665.3253  
steven.haber@obermayer.com

**Andrew J. Horowitz**

PARTNER  
412.288.2461  
Andrew.Horowitz@obermayer.com

**Christopher M. Kurek**

SENIOR COUNSEL  
215.665.3092  
christopher.kurek@obermayer.com

**Thomas A. Leonard III**

CHAIRMAN EMERITUS  
215.665.3220  
thomas.leonard@obermayer.com

**Paige Macdonald-Matthes**

PARTNER  
717.221.1609  
pmm@obermayer.com

**Joseph J. McGovern**

PARTNER  
215.665.3058  
Joseph.McGovern@obermayer.com

**Salena Moran**

ASSOCIATE  
412.209.1350  
salena.moran@obermayer.com

**Matthew S. Olesh**

PARTNER  
215.665.3043  
matthew.olesh@obermayer.com

**Aimee E. Schneck**

ASSOCIATE  
215.665.3048  
aimee.schnecker@obermayer.com

**Leslie B. Spoltore**

PARTNER  
302.274.3062  
leslie.spoltore@obermayer.com

**Thomas S. Wyatt**

PARTNER  
215.665.3200  
thomas.wyatt@obermayer.com

**Katarzyna Parker**

ASSOCIATE  
215.665.3154  
kasia.parker@obermayer.com

**Mathieu J. Shapiro**

MANAGING PARTNER  
215.665.3014  
mathieu.shapiro@obermayer.com

**Taylor D. Washington**

ASSOCIATE  
215.665.3106  
taylor.washington@obermayer.com

**Jean S. Scanlan**

ASSOCIATE  
215.665.3259  
jean.scanlan@obermayer.com

**Charles L. Shute Jr.**

SENIOR COUNSEL  
215.665.3026  
charles.shute@obermayer.com

**Brett Wiltsey**

PARTNER  
856.857.1435  
brett.wiltsey@obermayer.com

---

**RELATED CAPABILITIES**

- Appellate
- Commercial Litigation
- Counseling, Compliance & Training
- Employment-Related Agreements
- Executive Compensation & Employee Benefits
- Health Care
- Immigration
- Insurance
- Internal Investigations
- International Businesses
- Labor & Employment
- Labor Arbitration
- Local Governments & Municipal Authorities
- Mergers & Acquisitions
- Traditional Labor Relations & Collective Bargaining
- Universities & Secondary Schools
- Wage & Hour