

Hope A. Comisky

Partner
Philadelphia

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A top-ranked top labor and employment attorney and an experienced arbitrator, Hope Comisky regularly counsels clients in all aspects of employment law while also advising the firm's lawyers on ethics and professionalism matters.

Areas of Focus:

- Labor and Employment

Overview

Hope concentrates her practice in employment law advice and training. Currently, Hope, who is a Fellow of the College of Labor and Employment Lawyers, counsels clients in all aspects of employment law. In addition to maintaining an active legal practice, she is the firm's general counsel emeritus and chairs the firm's Professional Responsibility Committee, providing ethics advice and handling all risk management functions.

Hope also has substantial experience arbitrating and mediating employment and commercial disputes as a member of the American Arbitration Association's panel of arbitrators and as appointed under the Alternative Dispute Resolution Program of the U.S. District Court for the Eastern District of Pennsylvania.

Hope is a frequent lecturer on employment law and professional responsibility topics. She has been a speaker at the Northeast Regional Employment Law Institute for many years, lecturing on various topics including sexual harassment, defamation in the employment context and tort claims arising from employee terminations. She also has published many articles on employment law and other topics, including several articles in *The Labor Lawyer* (now known as the *ABA Journal of Labor & Employment Law*), the law journal of the American Bar Association's Section of Labor and Employment Law.

Representative Matters

- Secured summary judgment in favor of a large corporation, defeating claims by seven individuals who alleged that their terminations as a result of a travel and entertainment expense audit were pretexts to deprive them of employee benefits and breached certain company policies.
- Secured summary judgment against a tenured professor at a university who claimed that she did not receive a promotion to Associate Professor because of retaliation for her support of another faculty member who had sued for disability discrimination.
- Secured summary judgment defeating a plaintiff, an experienced lawyer in the client's corporate legal department, who claimed that he was terminated because of his age and in retaliation for complaints about age discrimination in violation of both state and federal law.
- Represented a large corporate client against claims that an applicant was not hired for a position at a nuclear facility because he had exercised his rights under the Energy Reorganization Act, which protects whistleblowers.
- Secured summary judgment on behalf of a large company on claims by a former employee that he was subjected to age discrimination because he was not selected for any of the five jobs for which he applied during a departmental reorganization.
- Resolved a putative class action against a convenience store chain alleging race discrimination caused by the use of criminal background checks as part of the application process.
- Defended a large transportation company against 30 individual age discrimination claims filed under one caption where all of the plaintiffs claimed that they were laid off in connection with a reduction in force because of their age.

Related Practices and Industries

- Labor and Employment Litigation and Dispute Resolution
- Litigation
- Governmental Audits, Benefit Claims and ERISA Litigation
- Higher Education
- International
- Canada
- Cybersecurity, Information Governance and Privacy

Professional and Community Involvement

- American Bar Association: Member, Center for Professional Responsibility, 2008 - present; member, Section of Litigation, Ethics and Professionalism Committee, 2013 - present
- Anti-Defamation League of Eastern Pennsylvania/Southern New Jersey/Delaware: 2010 - present, Member, Board of Directors; Board Executive Vice Chair, 2019 - present; Board Vice Chair, 2013 - 2019; Member, Nominating Committee, 2011 - present; Member, Executive Committee, 2011 - present
- Member, Association of Professional Responsibility Lawyers (APRL), 2007 - present
- Member, Board of Trustees, Center for Literacy, 1996 - 2015; Chair, Board of Trustees, 2006-09
- Board Member, Federation Early Learning Services (previously Federation Day Care Services), 2003-10; Member, Executive Committee, 2009-10

- Pennsylvania Bar Association: Member, Task Force to Examine Code of Judicial Conduct, 2012-13; Member, Committee on Legal Ethics and Professional Responsibility, 2007 - present (by appointment only); Member of Board of Directors, Pennsylvania Bar Institute (educational arm of the Pennsylvania Bar Association), 2007-10
- Philadelphia Bar Association: Member, Professional Guidance Committee, 2007 - present; Committee Co-Chair, 2008-10, 2014-15; Member, Professional Responsibility Committee, 2007 - present; Committee Co-Chair, 2009-12
- Board Member, Philadelphia Futures, 2009-10
- Board Member, Philadelphia Mural Arts Advocates, 2015 - present
- Member, Board of Trustees, The Philadelphia School, 1989 - 2004, 2007-10; President, Board of Trustees, 2001-03
- Member, Board of Directors, Women's Law Project, 1998 - 2004

Rankings and Recognition

- Listed in *The Best Lawyers in America* (2015-2020). Named by *Best Lawyers* as Philadelphia Labor and Employment Law "Lawyer of the Year" (2017).
- Selected for inclusion on the *Pennsylvania Super Lawyers* list every year since its inception (2004-2020).

Bar Admissions

- New York
- Pennsylvania
- District of Columbia

Court Admissions

- United States Supreme Court
- U.S. Court of Appeals, First Circuit
- U.S. Court of Appeals, Third Circuit
- U.S. Court of Appeals, Sixth Circuit
- U.S. Court of Appeals, Seventh Circuit
- U.S. District Court, Middle District of Pennsylvania
- U.S. District Court, Eastern District of Pennsylvania

Education

- University of Pennsylvania Law School, J.D.
- Cornell University, College of Arts and Sciences, B.A.; Phi Beta Kappa

Clerkships

- Hon. Joseph L. McGlynn, Jr., U.S. District Court for the Eastern District of Pennsylvania, 01/01/1977 - 01/01/1978