



Michael

Michael W. Duffee
Partner

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Chicago
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MY SERVICES

ERISA Litigation
Labor & Employment

EDUCATION

Northwestern University School of Law, J.D., *magna cum laude*, 1977
DePaul University, B.A., *with highest honors*, 1974

ADMISSIONS

Illinois
U.S. District Court Northern District Illinois
U.S. District Court Northern District Indiana
U.S. District Court Eastern District Wisconsin
U.S. Court of Appeals 7th Circuit
U.S. Court of Appeals 8th Circuit
U.S. Court of Appeals 9th Circuit
The Supreme Court of the United States

I offer a service that's in short supply: deep experience in traditional labor law matters and the ability to guide clients through union-related issues.

overview

Representing management clients, Mike Duffee advises companies on collective bargaining negotiations, picketing, secondary boycotts, fringe benefit claims, pension withdrawal liability, jurisdictional disputes, prevailing wage problems, occupational safety and health matters, and other union-related work. He also provides counsel on employment disputes and litigation involving claims of discrimination, harassment and wrongful termination, as well as other issues.

Mike's practice encompasses many Chicago-area and Midwest organizations that operate in a variety of industries, particularly in construction, manufacturing, transportation and health care. He offers legal guidance to many public-sector clients, including park districts, municipalities, housing authorities and other governmental entities. Mike regularly draws on his highly regarded labor agreement negotiation skills in his longtime representations of the City of Chicago and the Chicago Transit Authority. He also serves as counsel to Taft-Hartley employee benefit funds and multi-employer associations.

Mike has bargained hundreds of contracts to completion and handled many grievances and any resulting litigation. As unionization continues to increase, clients turn to him to provide his deep insight into these complicated, esoteric issues—including some that make their way up into the highest federal courts. Mike understands how to maintain good labor relations while vigorously protecting the interests and economic viability of his employer clients.

Always taking a shrewd, practical approach, Mike determines what his clients are looking to accomplish from a business perspective; provides honest, realistic assessments of their chances of success in potential litigation; and resolves problems in the fastest and most cost-effective way possible.

experience

- Negotiated the first project labor agreement between a major metropolitan transit agency, and a large building trades council.

- Represented employer group in the privatization of a major municipal airport, and negotiated agreements with over a dozen trade unions which represented the airport's existing municipal workforce.
- Completed multi-employer negotiations for several moving industry clients in the Chicago area, and reached agreement on the first area wide Teamster contract for this industry in over 25 years.
- Negotiated collective bargaining agreement for Chinese-owned commuter rail car manufacturing facility, the first such plant built in Chicago in over 100 years.
- Represented Chicago based general contracting firm in negotiations for contract covering trend setting modular construction plant.

affiliations

Professional

- American Bar Association
- Chicago Bar Association

Community

- Member, DePaul University Liberal Arts and Social Sciences Advisory Board
- Vice Chair, Archdiocese of Chicago, Catholic Committee on Scouting

recognitions

- Listed in The Best Lawyers in America, 2008 - 2025, Employment Law - Management, and Labor Law - Management
- Listed in Illinois Super Lawyers (by Thomson Reuters), 2008 - 2025
- Listed in Super Lawyers Business Edition (by Thomson Reuters), 2011-2013
- Martindale-Hubbell Peer Review Rated AV Preeminent, 1995 - 2024
- Contributing Editor, Developing Labor Law, 2nd and 3rd Editions, 1983, 1992

in my free time

I like to read, particularly history and classic science fiction. I also do charitable work with organizations, including the Boy Scouts of America and the Archdiocese of Chicago.