



→ James R. Hays

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James Hays is a partner in the Labor & Employment Practice Group in the firm's New York office and is a team leader of the firm's Traditional Labor Law Team.

Areas of Practice

James' practice focuses on management labor and employment law. He represents clients in collective bargaining negotiations, labor arbitrations, and all stages of the labor election process, including election campaigns and hearings before the National Labor Relations Board. He also represents clients in employment litigation in federal and state courts, as well as various arbitration forums, and in proceedings before various administrative agencies, including the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission, the United States Department of Labor, and state agencies throughout the United States.

James advises and has represented clients in litigation concerning breach of non-compete agreements and theft of trade secrets. He advises employers on strategies for handling workplace harassment, internal investigations, reductions in staff, discipline and termination actions, and wage and hour issues. James devotes significant time to the defense of complex wage and hour class action litigation. He regularly counsels clients on preparation and administration of personnel policies and employment strategies and compliance with WARN, FMLA, ADA, COBRA and other federal and state labor statutes.

Honors

New York Super Lawyer, *Super Lawyers*, 2013-2019

Articles

- Noncompete Considerations As Businesses Reopen, Rehire
Law360, 08.18.2020
- Classification Ruling Exhibits NLRB's Stance On Contractors
Law360, 09.19.2019
- NLRB Ruling Clarifies Class Waivers For Employers
Law360, 08.26.2019
- An Initial Guide to Post-Employment Restrictive Covenants
US-India Business Council Legal Services Newsletter, Spring 2017

- Pre-Employment Testing and Screening: Common Practices, Potential Issues
New York Law Journal, 10.19.2015
- "Government Reviews Work Shift and Overtime Requirements," *New York Law Journal*, May 29, 2015
- "Is That Volunteer Really An Employee?" *The Metropolitan Corporate Counsel*, October 16, 2014
- "A Decade In The Making: What Employers Can Expect From A Fully Staffed NLRB," *The Metropolitan Corporate Counsel*, November 2013
- "NLRB Law Update - Recent NLRB Decisions That Affect The Non-Union Workplace," *The Metropolitan Corporate Counsel*, November 2012
- "ADA Amendments Breathe New Life Into Disability Claims," *New York Law Journal*, May 4, 2012
- "Fears Of A Double-Dip Recession And Managing Workforce Reductions," *The Metropolitan Corporate Counsel*, November 2011
- "New York Takes Significant Steps to Ensure Employee Awareness Regarding Wages," *SHRM Legal Report*, July 2011
- "The Social Media Revolution: Recent Developments And Guidelines For Employers To Consider," *The Metropolitan Corporate Counsel*, December 2010
- "Work Force Reductions: Thoughtful planning helps take the sting out of the process—and reduce the risk of lawsuits," *New York Law Journal*, August 2007
- "Are Your Employees Entitled to Overtime Pay? The FairPay ('White Collar') Overtime Regulations," *The Metropolitan Corporate Counsel*, 2004
- "Evaluating the Poor Performer: Guidelines for the Non-legal Manager," *ACCA Docket* 19, No. 3, 2001

Labor and Employment Law Blog Posts

- "Neutrality and Labor Peace Agreements – When Its Unlawful for an Employer to Be "Too Neutral" as to Union Organizing Under the NLRA," September 16, 2020
- "The Board Weighs In on the COVID Mail Ballot Controversy," September 1, 2020
- "Board Announces Intent to Issue New Rules Eliminating Disclosure of Certain Personal Information and Requiring Absentee Ballots for Those on Military Leave," July 29, 2020
- "1st Circ. Holds Non-Compete Agreement Unenforceable Against Fired and Rehired Employee," July 27, 2020
- "Sticks and Stones...The NLRB Rethinks Its Position on Abusive Workplace Speech by Employees While They Are Engaged in Protected Concerted and Union Activities," July 23, 2020
- "NLRA "Advice" All Employers Should Consider in a COVID World," July 23, 2020
- "AFL-CIO Sues the Board Over New Rules – AGAIN," July 17, 2020
- "Will the NLRB GC's "Suggested" Manual Election Protocols Matter?," July 10, 2020
- "Board Invites Briefs and Signals a Possible Shift in Its Contract Bar Rules," July 10, 2020
- "U.S. Supreme Court Backs Broad Interpretation of the "Ministerial Exception," Shielding Religious Employers From Employment Discrimination Claims," July 10, 2020
- "Judge Jackson Explains the Basis for Her Invalidation of the Board's Election Regulations," June 19, 2020
- "New Jersey Department of Labor Releases Posters for Employers to Utilize to Satisfy Employee Misclassification Posting Requirements," June 9, 2020

- "The NLRB Reacts to Court's Eleventh-Hour Partial Injunction of the Agency's New Election Rules," June 2, 2020
- "Why, How and When Katz May "Trump" an Expired CBA When It Comes to Making Unilateral Changes – The Relationship Between *MV Transportation* and *Raytheon Network*," April 23, 2020
- "Keep a Lid on It – The Trump NLRB Reaffirms Employer Ability to Enforce Investigative Confidentiality Rules," April 22, 2020
- "New Jersey Gives Employers a Break on New WARN Requirements Due to COVID-19," April 17, 2020
- "Empire State of Mind: Governor Cuomo Proposes Bill to Provide Immediate Assistance for New Yorkers Impacted by COVID-19", March 18, 2020
- "New York Targets Members of Out-of-State LLCs in New Wage Theft Bill," January 6, 2020
- "Department of Labor Issues Final Rule on Calculating the Regular Rate of Pay Under the Fair Labor Standards Act," January 2, 2020
- Babcock & Wilcox" href="https://www.laboremploymentlawblog.com/2020/01/articles/national-labor-relations-board/discrimination-cases-babcock-wilcox/">"NLRB Reinstates Broad Deferral of Discrimination Cases to Arbitration, Overruling the Obama Board's 2014 Decision in *Babcock & Wilcox*," January 2, 2020
- "Employers May Now Forbid Employees Using Co. Email for Protected Concerted Activities, Forbid Employees from Discussing On-Going Workplace Investigations, and Cease Checking Off Union Dues," December 20, 2019
- "New Jersey Bill Would Codify a Stricter Version of ABC Test for Determining Independent Contractor Status," November 14, 2019
- "An Employer's Bargaining Table Complaints as to Poor Business Conditions Is Not a Claim of Poverty Entitling a Union to Business Sensitive Information," September 16, 2019
- "More Good News From The Board: NLRB Scraps The Clear And Unmistakable Waiver Standard For The Contract Coverage Test When Deciding Unilateral Change Cases," September 11, 2019
- May Not Have To Retain Racists, Sexists And Belligerently Disobedient Employees After All-The NLRB Appears Ready To Rethink Its Positions On Controversial Discipline-Related Doctrines" href="https://www.laboremploymentlawblog.com/2019/09/articles/national-labor-relations-act/employees-remarks-discipline-related-doctrines/">"Employers *May Not* Have To Retain Racists, Sexists And Belligerently Disobedient Employees After All-The NLRB Appears Ready To Rethink Its Positions On Controversial Discipline-Related Doctrines," September 11, 2019
- "The NLRB Nixes Union Gerrymandering And Establishes A Three Step Test For Voting Unit Determinations," September 11, 2019
- "The NLRB Rules That Employers May Bar Union Representatives From Their Property Even Though They Have Allowed Other Third Parties To Engage In Civic, Charitable Or Commercial Solicitations There," September 10, 2019
- "An Employer's Erroneous Announcement To Employees Declaring Them Independent Contractors Does Not, Standing Alone, Violate The NLRA," September 5, 2019
- "The NLRB Holds That Employers May Implement Class Waivers in Response to Class Claims and Discipline Employees Who Refuse to Sign Them," August 15, 2019

- "Breaking with Tradition, The Current NLRB is on a Rulemaking Tear: Election Procedures, Recognition Bar, and 9(a) Collective Bargaining Relationships," August 13, 2019
- "New York Requires Employees be Provided 3 Hours Paid Time Off to Vote," June 3, 2019
- "Did New Jersey Just Try to Ban Employment Arbitration Agreements?" March 28, 2019
- "Transgender Discrimination Outlawed in New York," February 13, 2019
- "New York City Council Enacts Package of Bills to Combat Sexual Harassment," April 13, 2018
- "The U.S. Department of Labor Rolls Back Obama-Era Guidance on Joint Employers and Independent Contractors," June 7, 2017
- "Unpersuasive: Federal Judge Invalidates DOL's New Persuader Rule," November 16, 2016
- "Second Circuit Holds That Facebook "Like" May Be Concerted Activity Under Section 7 of the NLRA," November 16, 2015
- "New York State Department of Labor Published Proposed Rules Regarding Non-Exempt Employees Paid by Debit Card," June 5, 2015
- "U.S. Supreme Court Rules that Security Screening Time is Non-Compensable Under Federal Law and The Portal-to-Portal Act," December 11, 2014
- "Recent Notable National Labor Relations Board Decisions," August 21, 2012
- "NLRB Launches New Website Regarding Concerted Activity," June 25, 2012
- "The EEOC Issues Updated Guidance on Employer Use of Arrest and Conviction Records," May 4, 2012
- "The EEOC Finds Discrimination on the Basis of Gender Identity (Against a Transgender Individual) a Viable Claim Under Title VII," May 1, 2012
- "Password Protected - Proposed Social Media Privacy Legislation," March 26, 2012
- "Unemployed Status -- The New Protected Class," March 7, 2012
- "New York State Wage Theft Prevention Act Notice Requirement," January 23, 2012
- "Second Circuit Finds that Employers May be Obligated to Accommodate a Disabled Employee's Commute," October 11, 2011
- "NLRB Requires Employers to Post Unionization Rights Notice," September 2, 2011
- "Connecticut Becomes First State to Mandate Paid Sick Leave," July 20, 2011
- "NLRB Proposes Significant Representation Election Changes That, If Finalized, Likely Will Aid Unionization Efforts," July 1, 2011

Media Mentions

NLRB Memo Won't Bring End To Mail-In Union Voting
Law360, 07.15.2020

Is the NLRB Embracing Common Sense?
Material Handling & Logistics, 11.25.2019

With New Prez, Hotels Hope For Browning-Ferris Reversal
Law360, 02.03.2017

New NLRB Acting Chairman May Tilt Board Pro-Business
Society for Human Resource Management, 01.30.2017

NLRB Decision Could Complicate 'Mixed Unit' Collective Bargaining
Society for Human Resource Management, 07.15.2016

Texas Court Halts Timeline on 'Persuader Rule'
Society for Human Resource Management, 06.28.2016

NLRB Limits Right to Permanently Replace Strikers
Society for Human Resource Management, 06.10.2016

Refusal to Cross Picket Lines Is Protected for Most Employees
Society for Human Resource Management, 04.18.2016

Workplace Guidance Remains Elusive After Facebook Posting Case Is Settled
Workforce Management, 02.09.2011

Speaking Engagements

"Understanding the Integration of FMLA, WC, Disability and COBRA Time Lines," Lorman Webinar, May 22, 2019

"Winning in the U.S. – Key Legal topics and Updates for 2018," Endo-American Chamber of Commerce, February, 16, 2018, Mumbai, India

"Key NLRB Developments for Non-Union and Union Employers," Strafford CLE Webinars, February 3, 2016

"Where Is the National Labor Relations Act? Non-Traditional Organizing and Technology," Symposium on Technology in the Practice and Workplace, New York Law School, April 30-May 2, 2014

"Labor & Employment Law: 2012 Year In Review," New York, New York, November 15, 2012

"Key NLRB Developments for Non-Union and Union Employers," Strafford CLE Webinars, November 14, 2012

"Labor & Employment Law Update: Spring 2012 Seminar," New York, New York, May 9, 2012

"Labor & Employment Law: 2011 Year In Review," New York, New York, November 3, 2011

"U.S. Labor Laws—What You Need to Know to Avoid Problems," Institute of International Bankers and Conference of State Bank Supervisors, 2010-2017

"Labor & Employment Law Update: Spring 2011 Seminar," New York, New York, May 19, 2011

"Labor & Employment Law Update: 2010 Year in Review," New York, New York, November 10, 2010

“Training for Supervisors—How to Limit Liability for Employment Issues,” Lorman Education Services, July 2010

“Employment-Related Records,” Lorman Education Services, October 2007

“How to Conduct an Internal Investigation,” December 2006

“2006 Employment Law Update—A Review of Recent Developments,” November 2006

“How to Maintain an Effective Human Resources Department,” Lorman Education Services, September 2006

“Advanced Workplace Investigations,” Lorman Education Services, April 2006

“New Employment Law From A to Z,” Lorman Education Services, November 2005

“Payroll Management in New York,” Lorman Education Services, May 2005

“Mastering the FMLA Puzzle,” Council on Education Management, April 2005

“The FairPay Regulations—New Overtime Challenges,” The Tower Club Breakfast Seminar Series, November 2004

“2004: A Dynamic Year In Employment Law—Recent Developments,” September 2004

“Unions—How to Deal with Them,” 46th Annual Professionals In Human Resources Association Conference, September 2003

“Human Resource Audits in New York,” Lorman Education Services, August 2001

Events

Getting Back to Business Webinar Series (Part 1)

Planning and Best Practices for Employers in a Changed Workplace
Webinar, 05.21.2020

CANCELED: Unions Launch New Effort to Organize Game Companies - Are you Ready?
Sheppard Mullin San Francisco, 03.19.2020

Labor & Employment Law Update
New York
06.07.2018

Timely Topics Facing Indian Lawyers and Chief Legal Officers
Hosted by Sheppard Mullin and the USIBC
12.14.2015

Timely Topics Facing Indian Lawyers and Chief Legal Officers
Hosted by Sheppard Mullin and the USIBC
12.08.2015

Sheppard Mullin's Labor & Employment Year In Review
11.19.2015

Sheppard Mullin's Spring 2015 Labor & Employment Law Update
05.05.2015

2014 Labor & Employment Year In Review
11.13.2014

2013 New York Labor & Employment Update
Grand Hyatt New York, 06.19.2013

2012 Labor and Employment Year in Review
How the U.S. Presidential Election and the Current Economy Will Impact Labor and Employment Laws in 2013
and Beyond
Grand Hyatt New York, 11.15.2012

Labor & Employment Law Update 2012
The W Hotel, New York, 05.09.2012

Labor & Employment Law: 2011 Year In Review
New York
The W Hotel, 11.03.2011

Labor & Employment Law Update - Spring 2011
Sheppard Mullin New York, 05.19.2011

Labor & Employment Law Update: 2010 Year in Review
W New York, 11.10.2010

Podcasts & Webinars

Getting Back to Business Webinar Series: Session One
05.21.2020

Practices

Labor and Employment

Labor and Employment Counseling

Labor Union Management Relations

Labor and Employment Litigation

International Reach

South Asia

Healthcare

Industries

Healthcare

Education

J.D., New York Law School, 1990

B.A., Catholic University, 1982

Admissions

New York

Connecticut

U.S. Supreme Court

U.S. District Courts for the Southern, Eastern, and Northern Districts of New York

Western District of Michigan

District of Connecticut