

**Top
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The Nation's Most Powerful Employment Attorneys

The following list, in alphabetical order, was prepared exclusively for *Human Resource Executive*® by Lawdragon, a Los Angeles-based networking site for lawyers and clients. In addition to the initial list of 100, one list of 15 and two lists of 10 are featured after it, specifying the most powerful employment attorneys for immigration law, labor law and ERISA law, respectively. All 135 attorneys were selected on the basis of curriculum-vitae analyses, evaluations by clients and peers, and reporting by the Lawdragon staff.

Name/Title	Law Firm	City	Law School	Years in Practice	Practice Specialty
Nancy L. Abell Global Chair, Employment Law	Paul Hastings	Los Angeles	UCLA	31	Trial lawyer/adviser on full range of employment issues; represents employers in class and individual cases
Rory Judd Albert Co-Head, Employee Benefits, Executive Compensation and ERISA Litigation	Proskauer	New York	Columbia	33	Employee benefits, executive compensation and ERISA litigation
Rosemary Alito Partner	K&L Gates	Newark, N.J.	Rutgers	32	Labor and employment
R. Lawrence Ashe Jr. Partner and Chair	Ashe Rafuse & Hill	Atlanta	Harvard	43	Defense of employment class and collective actions; employment testing issues; executive agreements and noncompetes
L. Robert Batterman Partner	Proskauer	New York	New York University	44	Collective bargaining and labor-management relations; counseling
Peter Bennett Firm President	Bennett Law Firm	Portland, Maine	Boston University	25	Management-side labor relations, persuader activities and employment law, including trials, throughout New England
Elise M. Bloom Co-Chair, Labor and Employment	Proskauer	New York	Emory	28	Employment class and collective actions, including wage/hour and discrimination matters; extensive trial experience; employment counseling/training
Barbara B. Brown Office Chair	Paul Hastings	Washington	Yale	39	Employment law
Charles S. Caulkins Managing Partner-Ft. Lauderdale and Member, National Management Committee	Fisher & Phillips	Ft. Lauderdale, Fla.	New York University	33	Labor and employment, union-representation campaigns, collective bargaining, arbitrations, dispute resolution, FLSA and trade-secret protection
Joseph T. Clees Shareholder	Ogletree Deakins	Phoenix	Villanova	26	Labor and employment
William L. Cole Partner	Mitchell Silberberg & Knupp	Los Angeles	Stanford	33	Employment litigation, including class-actions, and traditional labor law, including NLRB proceedings, arbitrations and union negotiations
John J. Coleman III Partner	Burr & Forman	Birmingham, Ala.	Duke	29	Class and individual discrimination, FLSA, NLRA and OSHA litigation defense; union campaigns; collective-bargaining negotiation; training and counseling
Terence G. Connor Co-Chair, Labor and Employment	Hunton & Williams	Miami	Seton Hall University	43	ERISA litigation
Harriet E. Cooperman Co-Chair, Labor, Employment and Employee Benefits	Saul Ewing	Baltimore	University of Maryland	32	Labor, employment and employee benefits
Joseph J. Costello Practice Leader	Morgan Lewis	Philadelphia	Stanford	25	Labor and employment
Michael A. Curley Founder/Managing Partner	Curley & Mullen	New York	Villanova	27	Traditional labor, employment, restrictive covenant/noncompete advice and litigation, executive compensation
Lisa J. Damon National Chair, Labor and Employment	Seyfarth Shaw	Boston	Fordham	23	Labor and employment
Barbara Jean D'Aquila Partner, Chair of Minneapolis Office Litigation Department	Fulbright & Jaworski	Minneapolis	University of Minnesota	31	Handles class, collective and complex employment and business litigation for major companies; broad-based labor and employment experience (discrimination, wage/hour, ERISA, trade secrets, etc.)
Francis X. Dee Partner	McElroy Deutsch, Mulvaney & Carpenter	Morristown, N.J.	Catholic University of America	41	Employment litigation and jury trials, class-actions, collective actions, ERISA, trade-secret litigation and traditional labor
Michael Delikat Chair, Global Employment Law	Orrick	New York	Harvard	33	Class-action defense, whistleblower claims and internal investigations, trade-secret litigation and cross-border employment law advice
Mark S. Dichter Firm Chair, Labor and Employment	Morgan Lewis	London	Villanova	41	Employment class and collective actions, high-profile employment cases and employment advice in the U.S. and U.K.
Lawrence C. DiNardo Partner and Practice Leader	Jones Day	Chicago	Notre Dame	36	Labor and employment
Dennis P. Duffy Chair, Labor and Employment	Baker Botts	Houston	University of Virginia	28	Complex employment litigation and counseling, including discrimination, wage/hour, corporate transactions and executive compensation
Scott H. Dunham Partner	O'Melveny	Los Angeles	University of Washington	35	Employment litigation and counseling, including wage/hour, wrongful discharge, whistleblowing, safety and health, and harassment and discrimination
Zachary D. Fasman Chair, Employment Law Department, NY Office	Paul Hastings	New York	University of Michigan	38	Employment and labor litigation and advice
Daniel F. Fears Partner	Payne & Fears	Irvine, Calif.	University of San Diego	27	Labor and employment
Mark J. Foley Chair, Labor and Employment	Cozen O'Connor	Philadelphia	Villanova	23	Employment litigation, including trade secret, discrimination and wage/hour; collective bargaining, traditional labor litigation; general employment counseling
Gary D. Friedman Partner	Weil Gotshal	New York	Georgetown	21	Class-actions, high-level counseling and other complex discrimination, wage/hour and trade-secrets litigation and arbitrations
Angelo J. Genova Co-Founder and Partner	Genova Burns & Giantomasi	Newark, N.J.	Rutgers	31	Employment litigation defense and counseling, traditional labor law and collective bargaining, trials and appeals
Willis J. Goldsmith Partner in Charge-New York	Jones Day	New York	New York University	38	Traditional labor, employment and occupational safety and health trial and appellate litigation and counseling; collective bargaining
Michael J. Gray Partner	Jones Day	Chicago	Northwestern	18	Labor and employment
Brian S. Greig Worldwide Chair, Labor and Employment	Fulbright & Jaworski	Austin, Texas	University of Texas	35	Trial of cases, especially trade, complex litigation and union-related issues
Paul Grossman Partner	Paul Hastings	Los Angeles	Yale	46	Defends employment class-actions and other high-visibility employment litigation
Bruce S. Harrison Managing Partner	Shawe Rosenthal	Baltimore	George Washington University	39	Labor and employment

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Barry A. Hartstein Practice Leader	Morgan Lewis	Chicago	Northwestern	34	Labor and employment
Lynne C. Hermle Head, Silicon Valley Employment Group	Orrick	Menlo Park, Calif.	UC Hastings	29	Complex employment litigation, with special focus on trials and wage/hour class-actions
Eric W. Hilfers Partner	Cravath	New York	University of Chicago	12	Advice to clients and compensation committees in all aspects of executive compensation and benefits
Stephen J. Hirschfeld Founding Partner	Curiale Hirschfeld Kraemer	San Francisco	George Washington University	28	Employment litigation, counseling, union organizing, collective bargaining, labor arbitrations, misconduct investigations and cross-border employment law
Timothy H. Howlett Practice Leader	Dickinson Wright	Detroit	University of Michigan	37	Labor and employment law with an emphasis on employment litigation and counseling
Jerry M. Hunter Partner	Bryan Cave	St. Louis	Washington University	33	Employment-discrimination litigation and counseling, complex labor-relations issues and strategy, preventive labor relations
Mark A. Hutcheson Firmwide Chair	Davis Wright Tremaine	Seattle	University of Washington	43	Assisting employers with strategic labor planning, union-organizing campaigns, collective bargaining and strike prevention
W. Carl Jordan Partner	Vinson & Elkins	Houston	Harvard	36	Advice to and defense of employers in all areas of employment and labor law
Gregory J. Kamer Founding Partner	Kamer Zucker Abbott	Las Vegas	Emory	31	Labor and employment
William J. Kilberg Senior Partner	Gibson Dunn	Washington	Harvard	41	Complex employment/labor/benefits litigation, ERISA, wage/hour class-actions, appellate, Supreme Court advocacy and collective bargaining
Jeffrey S. Klein Chair, National Employment Practice	Weil Gotshal	New York	Columbia	29	Employment litigation and counseling, including class-actions, restrictive covenants, ERISA, wage/hour and executive employment
Andrew M. Kramer Partner	Jones Day	Washington	Northwestern	41	Principally focused on representing employers in traditional labor matters (e.g., negotiations, NLRB, court cases)
Jay P. Krupin Chair, Labor and Employment Practice	EpsteinBeckerGreen	Washington	St. Louis University	32	Management-labor relations, NLRB practice, collective bargaining, hospitality and healthcare industries
Kevin B. Leblang Chair, Employment Law	Kramer Levin	New York	Fordham	26	Concentrates exclusively on representing management in litigation and advisory matters
Alison B. Marshall Partner	Jones Day	Washington	University of Pennsylvania	26	Employment litigation, with emphasis on complex and class-actions, government investigations and whistleblower claims
William C. Martucci Chair, National Employment Litigation and Policy	Shook, Hardy & Bacon	Kansas City, Mo.	Georgetown	33	High-stakes employment litigation, especially class-actions, wage/hour, and EEOC litigation and jury trials
Garry G. Mathiason Vice Chair and Senior Shareholder	Littler	San Francisco	Stanford	39	Wage/hour and discrimination class-action litigation and prevention; HR compliance law and trends; international employment law
Matthew T. Miklave Member	EpsteinBeckerGreen	New York	Notre Dame	26	Represents employers in civil rights, employment relations, traditional union-management and complex employment litigation
Armin J. Moeller Jr. Partner	Balch & Bingham	Jackson, Miss.	Louisiana State University	38	Labor and employment
Demitrios M. Moschos Senior Partner	Mirick O'Connell	Worcester, Mass.	Boston University	45	Labor and employment
Gary C. Moss Partner	Jackson Lewis	Las Vegas	University of Iowa	41	Union avoidance, cases before the NLRB, union-organizing campaigns, collective bargaining and arbitration
Marko J. Mrkonich President and Managing Director	Littler	Minneapolis	Harvard	30	Representation of management in all aspects of labor and employment law, and firm management
Michael Patrick O'Brien Shareholder; Chair, Litigation Department; Leader, Employment and Labor Law Practice Group	Jones Waldo	Salt Lake City	University of Utah	24	Prevents and solves problems in the areas of risk avoidance, EEO, fair-labor standards, immigration and wrongful termination
Camille A. Olson National Chair, Complex Discrimination Litigation	Seyfarth Shaw	Chicago	University of Michigan	27	Represents companies nationwide in challenges to their employment practices
Anthony J. Oncidi Co-Chair, Labor and Employment	Proskauer	Los Angeles	University of Chicago	26	Employment litigation, including wage/hour and discrimination class-actions, restrictive covenants and trade secrets
Bettina B. Plevan Co-Head, International Labor and Employment	Proskauer	New York	Boston University	40	Representation of employers, primarily in financial services, law and media defending discrimination and harassment claims
Stephen A. Ploscowe Partner	Fox Rothschild	Roseland, N.J.	Cornell	45	Labor and employment law for management in service, manufacturing and distribution industries, as well as not-for-profit organizations and higher education
Roger K. Quillen Firmwide Managing Partner	Fisher & Phillips	Atlanta	Ohio State	30	Labor and employment, with an emphasis on appellate litigation
James R. Redeker Partner, Employment, Benefits and Immigration Practice Group	Duane Morris	Philadelphia	University of Pennsylvania	42	Union prevention, collective bargaining, unfair-labor-practice proceedings, arbitrations, counseling, succession planning and employee discipline systems
Colleen M. Regan Partner	Seyfarth Shaw	Los Angeles	Loyola	25	Employment counseling and litigation, including discrimination, harassment, wage/hour cases, compliance strategies and litigation avoidance
Michael Reiss Partner	Davis Wright Tremaine	Seattle	Yale	42	Representing employers in class-actions and high-profile employment jury and non-jury trials
Joseph A. Ritok Member	Dykema	Detroit	University of Michigan	35	Employment
Theodore O. Rogers Jr. Partner	Sullivan & Cromwell	New York	Harvard	31	Employment litigation and counseling, including restrictive covenant, discrimination, wage/hour, retaliation and labor issues

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Name/Title	Law Firm	City	Law School	Years in Practice	Practice Specialty
Lawrence J. Rosenfeld Shareholder	Greenberg Traurig	Phoenix	Yale	35	Employment litigation, particularly federal/state statutory claims, including class-action defense; client counseling
Paul Salvatore Co-Chair, Labor and Employment	Proskauer	New York	Cornell	26	Collective bargaining and labor-management relations, employment law, and litigation and counseling
Terry E. Sanchez Partner	Munger, Tolles & Olson	Los Angeles	Stanford	29	Defends employers in connection with complex employment litigation; advises employers on employment issues
Sheldon N. Sandler Partner	Young Conaway	Wilmington, Del.	University of Pennsylvania	44	Represents management in private- and public-sector employment and labor litigation and counseling matters
Deborah C. Saxe Partner	Jones Day	Los Angeles	UCLA	32	Represents employers in labor and employment-law matters
Eugene Scalia Co-Chair, Labor and Employment; Chair, Administrative Law	Gibson Dunn	Washington	University of Chicago	20	National labor and employment practice, including discrimination law, wage/hour, NLRA, ERISA and Sarbanes-Oxley
Lori R. Schultz Partner	Shook, Hardy & Bacon	Kansas City, Mo.	University of Kansas	23	Employment litigation
Jonathan A. Segal Partner and Managing Principal, Duane Morris Institute	Duane Morris	Philadelphia	University of Pennsylvania	25	Preventive planning, counseling and training, e.g., minimizing EEO exposure, maximizing FLSA compliance and protecting union-free status
Mark A. Shank Partner	Gruber Hurst Johansen Hail	Dallas	Southern Methodist University	31	Employment litigation
Richard C. Shea Partner	Covington & Burling	Washington	University of Virginia	27	Employee benefits, especially strategic advice on design, regulation, legislation and litigation affecting sophisticated plan designs
Jeremy P. Sherman Partner and National Practice Management Coordinator	Seyfarth Shaw	Chicago	George Washington University	34	Labor-relations counseling and litigation, collective-bargaining strategy and negotiations, labor-antitrust litigation
Robert Siegel Partner	O'Melveny	Los Angeles	University of Michigan	36	Litigation, counseling, arbitrations and labor-union negotiations, with an emphasis on the airline industry
Gary R. Siniscalco Partner	Orrick	San Francisco	Georgetown	41	Complex EEO and trade-secret matters; advises multinationals on U.S. and foreign employment law
Charles R. Smith Partner	K&L Gates	Pittsburgh	University of Pittsburgh	36	Employee benefits, ESOPs and fiduciary duties under ERISA
Gregory E. Smith Shareholder and Chair, Labor and Employment Practice Group	Lionel Sawyer & Collins	Las Vegas	University of North Carolina	36	Labor relations and employment counseling, negotiations and litigation
Grace E. Speights Managing Partner-D.C. Office	Morgan Lewis	Washington	George Washington University	28	Employment litigation and counseling, with a focus on employment discrimination class-action litigation
Patrick M. Stanton Shareholder	Ogletree Deakins	Morristown, N.J.	University of Virginia	38	Labor and employment
George A. Stohner Partner	Morgan Lewis	Los Angeles	University of Pennsylvania	39	Labor and employment
Steven W. Suflas Partner	Ballard Spahr	Voorhees, N.J.	University of North Carolina	34	Represents management in all areas of employment law, including traditional labor law, counseling and litigation
Joseph E. Tilson Firm Co-Chair and Founding Partner	Meckler Bulger Tilson Marick & Pearson	Chicago	University of Michigan	31	Labor and employment
Patrick L. Vaccaro Managing Partner	Jackson Lewis	White Plains, N.Y.	New York University	44	Labor and employment law, including arbitrations, private- and public-sector bargaining, mediation and fact finding, and management training and education
Framoze Virjee Chair, Labor and Employment	O'Melveny	Los Angeles	UC Hastings	25	Employment litigation and wage/hour discrimination; senior-level client counseling/negative covenants, trade secrets; collective bargaining and traditional labor
Jay W. Waks Litigation Partner and Chair, Employment and Labor Law Practice	Kaye Scholer	New York	Cornell	39	Employment and labor litigation and counseling, class-actions, EEO, wage/hour, whistleblowing and restrictive-covenant enforcement
Eric J. Wallach Chair, Employment Practices and Litigation	Kasowitz, Benson, Torres & Friedman	New York	Harvard	37	Employment litigation
Geoff Weirich Partner	Paul Hastings	Atlanta	Duke	26	Counsels employers and defends them in litigation regarding employment, trade secret and ADA accessibility issues
A. Martin Wickliff Jr. Managing Shareholder	EpsteinBeckerGreen	Houston	Texas Southern University	37	Labor and employment
Lonnie J. Williams Jr. Partner	Quarles & Brady	Phoenix	Yale	31	Labor and employment
Robert M. Wolff Shareholder	Littler	Cleveland	University of Illinois	30	Employment counseling and trial practice; emphasis in healthcare, energy and retail industries
T. J. (Jeff) Wray Partner in Charge, Houston Labor and Employment	Fulbright & Jaworski	Houston	University of Virginia	36	Union avoidance; collective bargaining; NLRB: FLSA, ERISA, EEO; class and collective actions; preventive counseling
Scott W. Wright Manager, Business Immigration Practice	Faegre & Benson	Minneapolis	University of Minnesota	22	Immigration, international employment and benefits, and labor-management relations
Madison Baker Wyche III Shareholder	Ogletree Deakins	Greenville, S.C.	Vanderbilt	38	Labor and employment
John F. Wymer III Partner	Paul Hastings	Atlanta	University of Virginia	36	Traditional labor law; management and complex employment litigation/defense
Peter Wolfson Zinober Co-Chair, National Labor and Employment	Greenberg Traurig	Tampa, Fla.	University of Florida	41	Labor and employment, employment litigation, labor and employment law arbitration, wage/hour and employee-benefits litigation

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The Nation's Most Powerful Employment Attorneys—Top 15 for Immigration Law

Name/Title	Law Firm	City	Law School	Years in Practice	Practice Specialty
Daryl R. Buffenstein Partner	Berry Appleman & Leiden	Atlanta	University of Rhodesia	32	Corporate immigration, including strategic planning, legislative and regulatory assistance, DOL and DHS, and immigration compliance; foreign national recruitment and retention
Bo Cooper Partner	Berry Appleman & Leiden	Washington	Tulane University	22	Legislative and administrative representation, strategic immigration counseling, compliance planning and responses to government audits
Austin T. Fragomen Jr. Partner and Chairman, Executive Committee	Fragomen	New York	Case Western Reserve University	40	Global corporate-immigration-program management and representation in complex business-immigration matters
H. Ronald Klasko Firmwide Managing Partner	Klasko, Rulon, Stock & Seltzer	Philadelphia	University of Pennsylvania	36	U.S. immigration counsel to multinational and U.S. businesses, hospitals, universities, scholars and foreign investors
Ira J. Kurzban Partner	Kurzban Kurzban & Weinger Tetzeli and Pratt	Miami	UC Berkeley	34	Immigration compliance, litigating business and investor cases, and defending civil and criminal employer-sanctions cases
Warren R. Leiden Managing Partner	Berry Appleman & Leiden	San Francisco	Boston University	36	Corporate immigration, including U.S. and global-mobility programs for employment authorization, labor certification and residency
Jorge R. Lopez Shareholder, Practice Co-Chair Immigration and Global Mobility	Little	Miami	University of Miami	25	Immigration compliance; I-9 etc., E-verify and state provisions; international employment law, U.S. and global visa processing
Deborah J. Notkin Partner	Barst Mukamal & Kleiner	New York	New York Law School	23	Business immigration
Angelo A. Paparelli Partner	Seyfarth Shaw	Los Angeles	Wayne State University	34	Immigration
Michael D. Patrick Partner and General Counsel	Fragomen	New York	Hofstra	32	Immigration
Julie Pearl Managing Attorney	Pearl Law Group	San Francisco	UC Hastings	22	Global Immigration, I-9 and E-Verify services for employers
Theodore Ruthizer Co-Chair, Business Immigration	Kramer Levin	New York	Columbia	38	Business immigration counsel to leading domestic and international companies
Denyse Sabagh Head, Immigration Practice Group	Duane Morris	Washington	George Mason University	33	Immigration
Carl Shusterman Partner	Law Offices of Carl Shusterman	Los Angeles	UC Berkeley	34	Employment-based immigration, including investors, professionals, athletes and artists
Bernard P. Wolfsdorf Managing Partner	Wolfsdorf Immigration Law Group	Santa Monica, Calif.	Suffolk	27	A full-service boutique law firm known worldwide for its immigration representation

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The Nation's Most Powerful Employment Attorneys – Top 10 for Labor Law

Name/Title	Law Firm	City	Law School	Years in Practice	Practice Specialty
M.J. Asensio National Team Leader of Labor Relations Practice	Baker Hostetler	Columbus, Ohio	Indiana University	25	Employment and labor relations
Homer L. Deakins Jr. Shareholder	Ogletree Deakins	Atlanta	University of Texas	50	Labor and employment
Michael F. Delaney Chair, Labor and Employment Law Group	Spencer Fane Britt & Browne	Kansas City, Mo.	University of Kansas	34	Labor law, collective bargaining, arbitration and NLRB representation; employment litigation, employee relations counseling and training
Louis P. DiLorenzo Partner and Chair, Labor and Employment, Employee Benefits, Executive Compensation and Immigration Practice Group	Bond Schoeneck & King	New York	SUNY Buffalo	34	Labor-relations counseling and strategy, negotiations, arbitration, labor-and-employment litigation, risk-management training
Jack Gallagher Partner	Paul Hastings	Washington	Cornell	38	Labor and employment law for management, including labor issues in bankruptcy
Howard L. Ganz Co-Chair, Sports Law Practice	Proskauer	New York	Columbia	44	Employment litigation and labor relations, including representation of professional sports leagues and teams
W. Melvin Haas III Partner	Constangy, Brooks & Smith	Macon, Ga.	University of Alabama	39	Employment and labor relations, specializing in preventive counseling, union elections, contract negotiations and arbitrations
F. Curt Kirschner Jr. Partner	Jones Day	San Francisco	University of Michigan	25	Strategic labor relations and employment advice and representation
Thomas Y. Mandler Capital Partner	Hinshaw	Chicago	University of Illinois	39	Traditional labor-management relations, including collective bargaining, arbitration, union prevention, NLRB proceedings, and employment counseling and discrimination
Steve McCown Shareholder	Little	Dallas	Southern Methodist University	35	Employment discrimination

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The Nation's Most Powerful Employment Attorneys—Top 10 for ERISA Law

Name/Title	Law Firm	City	Law School	Years in Practice	Practice Specialty
Gregory C. Braden Co-Chair, ERISA Litigation	Morgan Lewis	Washington	University of Wisconsin	28	Complex class-action ERISA litigation involving fiduciary, benefits and tax claims
Gregory K. Brown Partner	Katten	Chicago	University of Illinois	34	Specializes in employee benefits and executive compensation, with an emphasis on ESOPs
Robert Eccles Partner	O'Melveny	Washington	Harvard	38	ERISA litigation
Paul M. Hamburger Head, Employee Benefits, Executive Compensation and ERISA Litigation	Proskauer	Washington	University of Michigan	27	Employee-benefit-plan compliance (tax and ERISA) for retirement plans, executive compensation, health plans and other benefits
David N. Heap Director	Fennemore Craig	Phoenix	Brigham Young University	30	Labor and employment
Michael A. Lawson Leader-Executive Compensation and Benefits	Skadden	Los Angeles	Harvard	32	Executive compensation and benefits
Michael J. Nassau Co-Chair, Employee Benefits	Kramer Levin	New York	Yale	50	Employee benefits, including plan design, compliance, fiduciary obligations and litigation
Max J. Schwartz Co-Managing Partner, Executive Compensation and Benefits	Sullivan & Cromwell	New York	University of Michigan	37	Executive compensation, succession planning, corporate governance, employee benefits (tax, securities, labor and employment laws)
Susan P. Serota Leader-Executive Compensation and Benefits	Pillsbury	New York	New York University	39	Advises national and international companies on their pension, profit-sharing, welfare and executive-compensation matters
Howard Shapiro Co-Chair, ERISA Litigation Practice Group New Orleans Office, Managing Partner	Proskauer	New Orleans	Loyola	31	Defense of employee-benefits litigation, representing employers, fiduciaries, employee-benefit plans, and plan-service providers