

Michael G. Messerschmidt

Partner

Michael practices labor and employment law, advising a broad range of public and private sector employers in the fields of health care, forest products, manufacturing, retail, municipal government, transportation and communications. He is Chair of the firm's Employment Law Group.

Michael advises on hiring and employee retention policies, personnel policies, discipline and termination issues, wage and hour issues, collective bargaining agreements and compliance with employment discrimination and civil rights laws.

He is a former Maine Assistant Attorney General and worked in the Criminal Division. In that position, he served as Chief Counsel to the State Department of Public Safety and also prosecuted white-collar crimes.

Michael was born in Portland and graduated *cum laude* from Harvard University. In 1978, he graduated from the University of Maine School of Law, where he was a member of the *Law Review*. He joined Preti Flaherty in 1980 and served as Managing Partner from 1991-1992.

Practice Areas

- Employment Law
- Litigation
- Hospitality

Education

- University of Maine School of Law (J.D., 1978)
- Harvard University (B.A., cum laude, 1975)

Admissions

- Maine
- Massachusetts
- New Hampshire
- U.S. Court of Appeals, First Circuit

Professional Affiliations

- Maine State Bar Association
 - Labor and Employment Law section
- American Bar Association
 - Labor and Employment Law section



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Honors & Awards

- Recognized in *Chambers USA: America's Leading Lawyers for Business*
- Listed in *Best Lawyers in America* for Employment Law (Management), Labor Law (Management) and Litigation (Labor and Employment)
 - 2019 Lawyer of the Year, Labor Law - Management (Portland, ME)
- Recognized by *New England Super Lawyers*
- Elected as Fellow, The College of Labor and Employment Lawyers

Civic Involvement

- Allocations Committee, Jewish Community Alliance
- Former Board Member and Advisory Board Member, Portland Stage Company
- Founding Member, Second Generation of Maine, an organization of children of Holocaust survivors
- Former Trustee, Board of Trustees, Congregation Bet Ha'am
- Coach, Cape Elizabeth Little League (six seasons)
- Past-President, Holocaust Human Rights Center of Maine
- Past-President, Portland Players Community Theatre

Presentations and Publications

- Written and lectured extensively before management audiences at programs presented by the Council on Education in Management, the National Business Institute, the Maine Human Resource Management Association, and other organizations
- Participated as a presenter at the 1st Annual Labor & Employment Conference sponsored by the Labor & Employment Relations Association of Maine (LERA) in Portland. Michael was a co-presenter with a union attorney on the subject of interviewing and investigation techniques
- Selected by the Maine Human Rights Commission to serve as a presenter on defense practice issues before the Commission at the MHRC's first Fair Employment Practice Seminar

Representative Matters

- Negotiation of collective bargaining agreements for public sector employer
- Defense of gender and retaliation claims on behalf of a private college
- Defense of claim of hostile environment based on religion on behalf of a media company in U.S. District Court
- Defense of whistleblower claims against gas company in state court
- Represented municipality in interest arbitration proceedings before state labor board