



Michael G. Messerschmidt

Partner

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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.

Admissions

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

Education

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

Professional Activities

- Maine State Bar Association
 - Labor and Employment Law section

Services

- [Employment Law](#)
- [Litigation](#)
- [Hospitality](#)

- American Bar Association
 - Labor and Employment Law section
- For the College of Labor and Employment Attorneys
 - Member, 1st Circuit Credentials Committee

Honors & Recognition

- 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*
- Recognized as a Labor & Employment Star in *Benchmark's Labor & Employment Guide*
- Rated AV® Preeminent™ by Martindale Hubbell
- Elected as Fellow, The College of Labor and Employment Lawyers

Civic and Charitable Activities

- Chair, Personnel Committee, Congregation Bet Ha'am
- 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

News

March 31, 2021

Benchmark Litigation Names Preti Flaherty 2021 “Maine Firm of the Year”

August 20, 2020

47 Preti Flaherty Attorneys Selected by Peers for Inclusion in Best Lawyers in America 2021, Including 4 “Lawyers of the Year”

April 24, 2020

Seventeen Preti Flaherty Attorneys Selected as Chambers USA Leaders in Their Field

August 15, 2019

45 Preti Flaherty Attorneys Selected by Peers for Inclusion in Best Lawyers in America 2020, Including 3 “Lawyers of the Year”

May 16, 2019

Twenty Preti Flaherty Attorneys Selected as Chambers USA Leaders in Their Field

August 15, 2018

45 Preti Flaherty Attorneys Selected by Peers for Inclusion in Best Lawyers in America 2019, Including 3 “Lawyers of the Year”

August 15, 2018

Attorney Michael G. Messerschmidt Selected by Peers as “Lawyer of the Year” in the 2019 Best Lawyers in America

May 3, 2018

Twenty-two Preti Flaherty Attorneys Selected as Chambers USA Leaders in Their Field

August 15, 2017

41 Preti Flaherty Attorneys Selected by Peers for Inclusion in Best Lawyers in America 2018

May 26, 2017

Twenty-three Preti Flaherty Attorneys Selected as Chambers USA Leaders in Their Field

August 15, 2016

36 Preti Flaherty Attorneys Selected by Peers for Inclusion in Best Lawyers in America 2017

May 27, 2016

Nineteen Preti Flaherty Attorneys Selected as Chambers USA Leaders in their Field

August 17, 2015

35 Attorneys Selected by Peers for Inclusion in The Best Lawyers in America® 2016

May 28, 2015

Twenty Preti Flaherty Attorneys Selected as Chambers USA Leaders in their Field

August 22, 2014

35 Preti Flaherty Attorneys Named to Best Lawyers 2015

May 23, 2014

Twenty Preti Flaherty Attorneys Selected as Chambers USA Leaders in their Field

February 17, 2014

Twenty Preti Flaherty Attorneys Selected as Chambers USA Leaders in Their Field

August 28, 2013

36 Preti Flaherty Attorneys Selected for Inclusion in Best Lawyers 2014

May 29, 2013

Preti Flaherty Earns Top Rankings by Chambers USA

Events

April 22, 2021

Understanding and Navigating the She-cession

March 2, 2021

The Future of Work: Assessing the Long-Term Impacts of COVID in the Workplace

October 6, 2020

Maine Virtual Employment Law Summit Series: A 2020 Year in Review

May 12, 2020

Michael Messerschmidt and Matthew LaMourie to present at 2020 Maine HR Convention

October 8, 2019

25th Annual Maine Employment Law Summit

DoubleTree by Hilton

October 3, 2019

2019 New Hampshire Employment Law Summit

Grappone Conference Center

October 4, 2018

2018 New Hampshire Employment Law Summit

Grappone Conference Center

September 27, 2018

2018 Maine Employment Law Summit

DoubleTree by Hilton

May 9, 2018

2018 Maine HR Convention

Samoset Resort

October 3, 2017

2017 NH Employment Law Summit

Grappone Conference Center

September 26, 2017

2017 Maine Employment Law Summit

DoubleTree by Hilton

October 11, 2016

2016 New Hampshire Employment Law Seminar

Grappone Conference Center

September 22, 2016

2016 Maine Employment Law Seminar

DoubleTree By Hilton

September 29, 2015

2015 Annual Maine Employment Law Seminar

DoubleTree by Hilton

September 17, 2015

2015 New Hampshire Employment Law Seminar

Grappone Conference Center

May 5, 2015

2015 Maine HR Convention

Samoset Resort

October 16, 2014

2014 New Hampshire Employment Law Seminar

Grappone Conference Center

September 16, 2014

2014 Employment Law Seminar

DoubleTree by Hilton

May 8, 2014

Maine HR Convention

Samoset Resort