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Barton Expands Employment Practice With Partner Hire

By **Jake Maher**

Law360 (October 7, 2022, 5:00 PM EDT) -- Barton LLP is building its employment and labor credentials by grabbing another firm's leader in that practice as a new partner, it announced recently.

Joseph H. Harris is joining Barton as an employment and labor partner from A.Y. Strauss, where he **led the firm's labor and employment practice group** as its chair. Barton announced the move on Sept. 26.

Harris told Law360 on Friday that Barton's extensive corporate practice and the opportunities it could provide drew him to make the jump.

"Barton really represents such a variety of different-sized businesses all over the world, different industries. You name, they represent them," Harris said. "Selfishly, as a management-side employment lawyer, being able to work on such a diverse array of employer-side issues, for such a wide array of companies, is an opportunity I could not pass up."



Joseph H. Harris

Harris' expertise is in labor and employment law defense, both in litigation and in intervening before cases get to litigation. He has experience defending employers from claims like discrimination and harassment, and also in helping employers preemptively avoid those claims through workplace law compliance and anti-discrimination and harassment training.

Harris has also worked with drafting and litigating around post-employment agreements like non-competes and confidentiality agreements. He's worked in a wide range of industries including finance, technology, and healthcare, among many others, and worked with startup and early-stage companies.

He's been working at Barton for a few weeks and said he's been impressed by the firm's "fanatical" devotion to client service. "It's not a cookie-cutter place," he said.

Although he no longer chairs a practice group, as he did at Y.A. Strauss, Harris said Barton is structured differently and added that titles are "not something I'm focused on."

Before joining A.Y. Strauss, Harris co-founded the employment law boutique White Harris PLLC. Before that he practiced employment law at Moses and Singer LLP.

He received his undergraduate degree from Haverford College and his law degree from the Cardozo School of Law at Yeshiva University.

Barton said hiring Harris is a key investment in employment and labor law designed to meet a growing demand.

"With the rise in employment needs for our clients, we could not be more excited to have someone of Joe's talent and experience joining us," managing partner Roger Barton said in the firm's announcement. "He brings a broad range of labor and employment law expertise at the highest level and is certain to be a tremendous asset to the firm."

Barton employs about 40 attorneys in offices in New York, Los Angeles, and Nashville serving businesses, investment funds, and financial services firms. It markets itself as a firm of "skilled, practical and business-minded former BigLaw attorneys."

--Editing by Peter Rozovsky.

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