

RICHARD H. BLOCK

Partner



Richard H. Block is a partner in Barton's labor and employment practice. Dick routinely represents management clients in collective bargaining negotiations and complex employment litigation. He regularly conducts human resource investigations, discrimination, harassment, wrongful discharge, and contract litigations. Dick represents both companies and executives in the negotiation of employment, equity, and severance agreements. He advises and trains clients on employment and labor issues including sexual harassment prevention, personnel policies, employee discipline, layoffs, equity and compensation arrangements, independent contractor matters, disability and leave issues, employee handbooks, and a broad range of collective bargaining matters.

Nationally recognized within the labor and employment field, Dick's clients include Fortune 500 companies, financial institutions, insurance companies, entertainment companies, cultural and nonprofit institutions, real estate firms, and healthcare organizations.

Dick has earned recognition by Chambers USA, the foremost legal data and analytics provider that ranks the top lawyers and law firms in America, as a leading practitioner in Labor & Employment and Labor Relations. Dick is described in Chambers as "an exceptionally valuable resource;" "his responsiveness and attentiveness leaves us feeling as if we are his only client; and "he demonstrates a great breadth of knowledge and expertise and he is a pleasure to work with." He has an "AV Preeminent" peer review rating in Martindale, the highest rating in the legal profession for professional excellence and ethical standards; he has been recognized by Best Lawyers in America; and he has consistently been selected to Super Lawyers in Thomson Reuter's annual survey of the top 5% of lawyers in the New York Metro Area, 2012 to present.

Dick is a frequent lecturer who has spoken in front of such entities as American Express Tax and Business Services, Inc., the Institute of Management and Administration, the Investment and Financial Services Association, the University of Pennsylvania, New York University's Annual Conference on Labor, and the New York City Bar.

Prior to joining Barton, Dick was a partner in the New York office of Am Law 100 Mintz, Levin, Cohn, Ferris, Glovsky, and Popeo, PC.

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Education

Hofstra University, J.D.
Princeton University, B.A.

Admissions

State of New York

Memberships

American Bar Association, Member
CPR Institute for Dispute Resolution, Member
Fellows of the American Bar Foundation, Member
Partridge-Invitation Scholarship Foundation,
President
The Princeton Club of New York City
President
Member, Board of Governors
Past Member, Board of Community Access for
the Mentally Ill Homeless
Past Member, the New York Board of the Simon
Wiesenthal Tolerance Center
Past Member, Princeton University Alumni
Advisory Council for Human Resources

Practices

Executive Compensation and Separation
Labor, Employment and Executive Compensation
Labor and Employment Disputes

Industry Experience

Entertainment
Finance
Food and Hospitality
Healthcare
Real Estate

Honors

Best Lawyers in America
Labor Law, Management – 2016 to present
Litigation, Labor & Employment – 2005 to
present
Employment Law, Management – 2012 to
present
The Best in the U.S. (2008)
Chambers USA
Labor & Employment – New York
Labor Relations – New York
Selected to Super Lawyers New York Metro
2007-2009, 2012 to present
Martindale-Hubbell: 2021 Top Rated Lawyer
Martindale-Hubbell AV Preeminent
Named as a Top 10 Leading Labor &
Employment Lawyer in New York by Business
Today

In the Media

"Top 10 Leading Labor & Employment Lawyers in
New York Revealed." Business Today. (July 10,
2023).

"Richard H. Block Joins Barton." CityBiz. (June
23, 2023).

Attorney Matters

Successfully represented Dial-A-Mattress in a full panel hearing at the National Labor Relations Board headquarters in Washington, D.C.

Successfully won an arbitration, defeated unfair labor practice charge before the NLRB, and won the dismissal of an Article 78 proceeding in N.Y. Supreme Court following the termination of a resident superintendent for a property management company.

Served as lead negotiator and outside counsel for one of the largest retail water and wastewater utility systems in New England in their collective bargaining agreements with Local 6 Offices, Professional Employees International Union (AFO-CIO), and Local Lodge 100, and the International Association of Machinists and Aerospace Workers.

Negotiated concessions in collective bargaining for BMG Entertainment in bankruptcy.

Counseled the 9/11 Memorial Museum in employment and human resource related issues.

Won an age retaliation jury trial for Atlantic Mutual Insurance Company in the U.S. District Court for the Southern District.

Advised the Leukemia & Lymphoma Society regarding various employment issues.

Served as lead negotiator for the Metropolitan Museum of Art in collective bargaining issues and advised the museum concerning diverse employment matters.

Served as lead negotiator for the Moinian Group in collective bargaining regarding the sale of commercial buildings.

Served as lead negotiator in collective bargaining issues for food purveyor H.B. Day and various private clubs including the Cosmopolitan Club and Princeton Club of New York.

Won a complete dismissal of three charges filed at the NLRB by employees of a home security company who were suspended for creating a workplace disruption in the middle of the employer's office. The dismissal was appealed and then affirmed.

Won a dismissal of a charge filed at the NLRB by an employee of a telecommunications service provider who was terminated in a restructuring.

Represented Christies in collective bargaining and counseled Christies in labor relations and employment matters.

Won a Second Circuit appeal in a discrimination matter for one of the cultural institutions of New York.

Served as lead negotiator and conducted collective bargaining for the Wildlife Conservation Society regarding the Bronx Zoo and other zoos in New York.

Counseled various senior executives regarding relocation from one company to another including interpretation of restrictive covenants.

Successfully obtained a permanent restraining order in NY Supreme Court Commercial Division against

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a group of executives who left our client to establish a competitive operation.