



10th Annual

New Laws FORUM

December 5, 2023

Doubletree Hilton | Lisle, Illinois

8:30 am – 4:30 pm

Speakers



Aaron Harris

Executive Director, Illinois Chamber of Commerce Employment Law Council

Aaron leverages his background and connections in Illinois state government to help clients further their business objectives. Before joining Michael Best Strategies, he held influential positions in Illinois' Office of the Governor, Department of Juvenile Justice, and State Police. Most recently, Aaron served as the Interim Legislative Director in the Office of Governor JB Pritzker where he managed the Governor's Office of Legislative Affairs staff and statewide legislative liaison workforce. Aaron assisted with the successful enactment of the Governor's landmark legislative agenda by securing support from members of the Illinois General Assembly. Prior to assuming this role, Aaron served as the First Assistant Deputy Chief of Staff for Legislative Affairs where he oversaw 16 state agencies' legislative priorities. Earlier in his career, Aaron was Chief of Intergovernmental Relations for the Illinois Department of Juvenile Justice's Office of Governmental Relations.



Jeffrey Risch

Partner, Amundsen Davis, LLC

Jeff serves as the Chair of Amundsen Davis' expansive management-side Labor & Employment Practice Group headquartered in Chicago, Illinois. Jeff represents employers in jurisdictions and before administrative tribunals throughout the United States. Jeff provides employment and traditional labor law counsel to several trade associations, including the Illinois Chamber of Commerce. Jeff has also contributed to cutting edge stories produced by several recognized media outlets such as NPR, Fox News Chicago, CNNMoney.com, the Daily Herald, and the Chicago Tribune. He also helped write and edit THE leading resource manual on labor and employment law for Illinois employers published by the Illinois Chamber of Commerce. Jeff is regularly recognized by his peers as a leading lawyer in the field of Labor & Employment Law on a local, regional, and national basis.



Jennifer Murphy

Partner, Amundsen Davis, LLC

Jennifer Murphy is a partner in Amundsen Davis's Labor, Employment, Benefits & Immigration Service Group. Jennifer counsels employers on litigation and employment related matters, including discrimination, harassment, and wage and hour issues and disputes, the Family Medical Leave Act, disability accommodation matters, whistleblowing, restrictive covenant, trade secret and defamation claims.



Jane Flanagan

Director, Illinois Department of Labor

Jane Flanagan was appointed to lead the State's primary labor enforcement agency in February of 2022. Prior to her appointment, Jane served as a Deputy General Counsel and Deputy Chief Compliance Officer in the Office of the Illinois Governor, where she provided counsel on legal and regulatory matters across a portfolio of state agencies with a focus on labor standards enforcement and workforce training.

Jane is the founder and former Chief of the Workplace Rights Bureau in the Office of the Illinois Attorney General. Under her leadership, that Office drew national attention to the widespread use of non-compete agreements for low-wage workers, negotiated four federal consent decrees involving labor trafficking in the restaurant industry, and led multiple state level legislative changes.

Jane began her career in private practice representing workers in employment matters, including wage and hour and employment discrimination cases. Prior to relocating to Illinois with her family, Jane also served as legal counsel to the Maryland's Commissioner of Labor and Industry.



Manny Torres, Jr.

AVP, Senior Employee Relations Specialist, Wintrust

Manny Torres received Bachelor of Business Administration in Human Resources Administration and Business Management from St. Mary's University in San Antonio, Texas. In addition, he has previous training and certifications as Professional in Human Resources (PHR) and Senior Professional in Human Resources (SPHR). He is a member of Empower Roundtable, Association of Workplace Investigators, Labor Relations Institute and Association of Change Management Professionals.

Manny has multiple areas of strengths, including working within HR and with leadership to build employee-centric practices. The projects he is most proud of is leading executive leaders into building the company Mission-Vision-Values, designing and launching a centralized employee relations function for a 19,000+ employee organization and creating community-based social impact and stewardship programs. He led programs in employer branding that led to recognition by the Electronic Recruiters Exchange and Chicago Chapter of the Society for Human Resources Management.



Ashley Trost

Director of People and Culture, Gallagher Asphalt Corporation

Ashley serves as the Director of People and Culture for Gallagher Asphalt Corporation, a paving general contractor and manufacturer in the Chicagoland area. In her current role, she functions as a Human Resources Department of One, facilitates the organization's leadership training and development, and oversees the company's Marketing and Communications department. She has a passion for fostering a culture of Values-Based Leadership and helping leaders facilitate effective communication that drives strategic alignment. She spent the first decade of her career in the medical field before transitioning to the construction industry in 2022. She holds a BS from Bradley University, a MS from Western Governors University, and SHRM-CP credentials provided by the Society of Human Resources Management (SHRM). Outside of work, she loves working out, getting creative in the kitchen, and visiting new cities. She strives to live every day with purpose, intent, and gratitude, and to help others do the very same.



Annette Tyman

Chair, People Analytics Group, Seyfarth Shaw LLP

As Chair of Seyfarth's People Analytics group, Annette leads a multidisciplinary team of attorneys, labor economists, data analysts, and other professionals to develop data-driven solutions that solve complex workforce issues. Annette collaborates with employers to design and implement metrics for tracking, assessment, and achievement of workforce objectives including effective talent acquisition and management, pay equity, diversity and inclusion, and workforce restructuring with an eye toward minimizing litigation risk.