

Kevin L. Wright

Senior Counsel

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Focus Areas

Employee Benefits
ERISA and Benefit Plan Litigation
Labor Management Relations
Arbitration

Overview

Kevin L. Wright concentrates on representing employers in all aspects of labor and employment law, most notably in the area of employee benefits and benefit plans. He has specific experience with multiemployer pension and welfare plans, serving as plan counsel and counseling employers on the interplay of collective bargaining and withdrawal liability and on the following laws:

- The Employee Retirement Income Security Act
- The Taft-Hartley Act
- The Pension Protection Act
- The Multiemployer Pension Plan Amendments Act

Kevin also offers advice regarding benefits administration and ERISA and Internal Revenue Code compliance.

Additionally, Kevin represents plan administrators and employers in benefits-related litigation, including claims for breach of fiduciary duty, withdrawal liability assessments and claims under the Pension Protection Act. He also assists employers with audits before - and in benefits-related litigation against - the Department of Labor and the Internal Revenue Service and serves as co-general counsel for a national jointly-trusted multiemployer pension and health benefits plan with over \$5 billion in assets.

Kevin works with the following types of employers:

- Wholesale food manufacturers
- Food retailers
- Logistics companies
- Warehousing companies
- Transportation companies

A frequent speaker before business and professional associations throughout the country Kevin writes extensively on a variety of labor and employee benefits topics. He is the former Office Managing Shareholder of Littler Mendelson's Washington, D.C., office

Previously, Kevin was an associate in the labor and employment practice of another firm in Washington, D.C.

Professional and Community Affiliations

- Member, Labor and Employment Law Section, American Bar Association

Recognition

- Named, The Best Lawyers in America®, 2021-2025
- Awarded, AV® Peer Review Rating, *Martindale-Hubbell*

Education

J.D., University of Virginia School of Law, 1987

B.A., Harvard University, 1984, *cum laude*

Bar Admissions

Virginia

District of Columbia

Courts

U.S. Court of Appeals, 2nd Circuit

U.S. Court of Appeals, 4th Circuit

Virginia Supreme Court

U.S. District Court, Eastern District of Virginia

U.S. District Court, District of Columbia

U.S. District Court, District of Maryland

Publications & Press

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Littler Press Release

August 19, 2021

Department of Labor Announces Non-Enforcement Policy and Intent to Revisit ESG, Proxy Rules

Littler ASAP

March 12, 2021

Congress Considers New Multiemployer Pension Reform

Littler ASAP

February 16, 2021

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Littler Press Release

August 20, 2020

The PBGC Proposes Simplified Methods for Calculating Withdrawal Liability

Littler ASAP

March 12, 2019

"CRomnibus" Spending Bill Makes Significant Changes to Law Governing Multiemployer Pension Plans

Littler Insight

December 17, 2014

Bargaining Strategies in the Wake of Multiemployer Pension Plan Notices Issued Pursuant to the Pension Protection Act

Littler Insight

May 14, 2008

Friedman Urges Employers to Ensure Compliance With Section 409A, Internal Revenue Code

SHRMOnline

April 20, 2007

Comprehensive Pension Reform Becomes Law: A Look At Changes Primarily Affecting Defined Benefit Plans

Littler Insight

October 25, 2006

Comprehensive Pension Reform Becomes Law: A Look At Changes Primarily Affecting Defined Contribution Plans

Littler Insight

October 19, 2006

Kevin Wright Predicts Pension Hurdles for HR Professionals

HR News

September 15, 2006

It's Baaack: The Reemergence of Withdrawal Liability and Its Impact on Employers Participating in Multiemployer Pension Plans

Littler Insight

August 31, 2005

Speaking Engagements

Avoiding Employee and Fringe Benefit Landmines

Tysons Corner, VA

December 13, 2018

The Top 10 Employee Benefits and Executive Compensation Issues in 2017

May 11, 2017

Collective Bargaining Strategies in a Challenging Economic & Regulatory Environment

Littler Mendelson, Scottsdale, AZ

May 10, 2012