

Sara O'Keefe

Of Counsel

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Focus Areas

Discrimination and Harassment
Whistleblowing, Compliance and Investigations
Wage and Hour
Hiring, Performance Management and Termination
Audit Services
Financial Services
Healthcare

Overview

Sara O'Keefe has practiced exclusively in labor and employment law matters during her entire career. She has focused on advising and counseling and litigation-avoidance for clients in a variety of industries including healthcare, retail, and manufacturing. She has worked with clients of all sizes from family-owned businesses, small start-ups, private equity firms, mid-sized regional corporations to global corporations. Sara has represented clients in administrative charges and in state and federal court, primarily single plaintiff litigation, harassment and discrimination, and retaliation claims. She has second-chair trial experience in state and federal court. Sara has experience drafting, defending and enforcing noncompete agreements and other restrictive covenants.

Most recently before joining Littler, Sara concentrated on advising clients on labor and employment issues in M&A transactions, negotiating and drafting ancillary employment agreements and separation agreements. She previously worked as assistant district counsel (labor counsel) for the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers for the St. Louis District.

In law school, Sara interned for Judge Theodore McMillian, U.S. Court of Appeals, Eighth Circuit. She was the notes editor of the *Washington University Law Quarterly* (now known as the *Washington University Law Review*).

Professional and Community Affiliations

- Board of Directors, Sleepyhead Beds, 2021-present

Recognition

- Named, Ones to Watch, Litigation - Labor and Employment, *Best Lawyers*, 2023-2025

Education

J.D., Washington University in St. Louis School of Law, 2003, *cum laude*

B.A., MidAmerica Nazarene University, 2000

Bar Admissions

Missouri

Courts

U.S. District Court, Western District of Missouri

U.S. District Court, District of Kansas

Publications & Press

One Contract Fix Can Reduce Employer Lawsuit Exposure

Law360

May 24, 2024

Speaking Engagements

2024 Kansas City Regional Employer Conference

Kansas City, MO

October 8, 2024