



Laura H. Harshbarger

Member

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Profile

Laura is a labor and employment law attorney whose practice includes all aspects of labor and employment law. She regularly advises colleges and universities with respect to Title IX (policy development, sexual harassment and sexual misconduct investigations and hearings), as well as accommodating students with disabilities. Laura is chair of the firm's labor and employment practice.

Laura has spoken at numerous conferences and seminars on such topics as Title IX compliance, sexual harassment/misconduct investigations and dealing with emotionally distressed and suicidal students.

Laura represents clients in Office for Civil Rights (OCR) investigations and represents higher education clients in federal and New York state court litigation. She regularly represents clients involved in litigation in the state and federal courts, as well as before the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission (EEOC) and the New York State Division of Human Rights. Laura also represents clients in arbitrations and mediations, negotiates collective bargaining agreements and advises clients with respect to labor relations issues.

For five years, Laura served as Governor Andrew Cuomo's appointee as Chair of the Fourth Department Judicial Screening Committee and a member of the Governor's State Judicial Screening Committee. These Committees evaluate the qualifications of judicial candidates and make recommendations to the Governor with respect to which candidates are highly qualified to hold judicial positions.

Honors & Affiliations

- Listed in:
 - *The Best Lawyers in America*®, Education Law; Employment Law - Management; Labor Law - Management; Litigation - Labor and Employment, 2010-2026 (listed for 16 years)
 - Lawyer of the Year (Syracuse) Labor Law - Management, 2019, 2024
 - Lawyer of the Year (Syracuse), Employment Law - Management, 2017; 2014; 2023, 2026
 - *New York Super Lawyers*®, Labor and Employment, 2025 (listed for more than 10 years)

Education

- Syracuse University College of Law (J.D., *summa cum laude*, 1997)
- Bucknell University (B.A., *summa cum laude*, 1994)

Bar/Court Admissions

- New York

Practices

- School Law
- Municipalities
- Higher Education
- Labor and Employment
- Health Care
- Business Restructuring, Creditors' Rights and Bankruptcy
- Title IX

- *New York Super Lawyers®*, Top 25 Women, Employment and Labor, 2025
- *Chambers USA* 2023, Labor & Employment – Upstate New York
- *Martindale-Hubbell®*, AV Preeminent Rated
- Syracuse Law Review Alumni Achievement Award, 2021
- New York State Bar Association, Labor and Employment Section of the Continuing Legal Education Committee
- Onondaga County Bar Association
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Representative Presentations

- 2021 Legislative Update, CNY SHRM Annual Conference, June 10, 2021
- Valuing Women's Work, Onondaga County Bar Association, April 21, 2021
- 2020: The Most Challenging Year, CNY SHRM Annual Conference, Keynote Speech, September 29, 2020
- Recruiting & Hiring in a Remote Work World, CenterState CEO, June 10, 2020
- Legal Questions in the Modern Workplace, American Council of Engineering Companies of New York Winter Conference 2020, January 27, 2020
- Ethical Considerations in Employment Discrimination Cases, Employment Discrimination Law & Litigation 2018, Practising Law Institute, June 18, 2018
- Sexual Harassment: What Management Needs to Know in the Current Cultural and Legal Climate, Management by Menu #partnerinchange, 2018 Maines Food Show, May 15, 2018
- Interviewed in "Preventing Sexual Harassment: A Way Forward," *Connect NY*, produced by WCNY, January 29, 2018
- Panel Member, Sticky Issues in Faculty Discrimination - Legal Update and Practice Pointers, NACUA CLE Workshop, March 30, 2017
- ADA/Section 504, Employment Law Alliance Webinar, September 22, 2015
- Employment Law Update, Central New York Society for Human Resource Management, January 27, 2015

Representative Publications

- Quoted in "'Ugly' Policy Alleged at NBC: Only Beautiful People Need Apply," *HR Today*, August 8, 2017
- "New NYC Rules For Accommodating Pregnant Employees Take Effect," *HR Specialist*, *New York Employment Law*, January 2014
- Harshbarger, "Employer Liability for Supervisor Harassment, After *Ellerth* and *Faragher*," *Duke Journal of Gender Law & Policy*, Vol. 6, Spring 1999, No. 1

Other Activities

- Onondaga County Bar Association, Past Board Member