SEYFARTH SHAW LLP ATTORNEYS

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Biography

Practices & Sectors

Labor & Employment

Wage & Hour Litigation

Complex Discrimination Litigation

Employment Litigation

Mr. Stewart is an associate in the Labor and Employment Department in Seyfarth Shaw's Chicago office. Mr. Stewart's practice has developed with a special emphasis on defending employers in wage & hour matters brought under the Fair Labor Standards Act (FLSA) and state laws. In addition to representing employers in wage & hour single plaintiff, collective and class actions filed in federal and state courts, Mr. Stewart's experience also includes advising and counseling employers regarding their wage and compensation policies and practices.

Mr. Stewart's experience also includes counseling and litigation of a wide array of other matters arising under local, state, and federal employment laws, including Title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, the Americans with Disabilities Act, the Equal Pay Act, and various other federal and state statutes and common law doctrines relating to employment. Mr. Stewart has represented employers in cases before administrative agencies, including the U.S. Department of Labor, Illinois Department of Labor, Equal Employment Opportunity Commission, the Illinois Department of Human Rights, the Illinois Human Rights Commission, and the Illinois Department of Employment Security.

Education

- J.D., University of Illinois College of Law (2007)
  magna cum laude
  Student Editorial Assistant - *The Comparative Labor Law and Policy Journal*
  Chief Justice - College of Law Moot Court
  Speech Communication TA - University of Illinois Department of Communication
- B.A., University of Mississippi (2004)
  summa cum laude
  Phi Beta Kappa
  Taylor Medal Recipient (highest academic honor, Top 1%)

Admissions

- Nebraska
- Illinois

Courts

- U.S. District Court for the Northern District of Illinois
- Illinois Supreme Court
- Nebraska Supreme Court

Affiliations

- American Bar Association

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- Nebraska State Bar Association - Young Lawyers Section

Representative Engagements

- *Ramirez, et al. v. Groh Works, Inc.*, et al., 11-cv-6784 (N.D. Ill.) (Class and collective action alleging violations related to wages and hours worked; matter ongoing)
- *Calderon, et al. v. Ground Pro's, Inc.*, et al., 12-cv-2919 (N.D. Ill.) (Class and collective action alleging violations related to wages and hours worked; matter ongoing)
- *Tinajero v. Landmark Landscaping, Inc.*, et al., 12-cv-6203 (N.D. Ill.) (Class and collective action alleging violations related to wages and hours worked; matter ongoing)
- *Alvarez v. New Landscaping, LLC*, et al., 12-cv-05172 (N.D. Ill.) (Class and collective action alleging violations related to wages and hours worked; matter ongoing)
- *Contreras v. Ruff Landscaping, Inc., et al.*, 12-cv-4952 (N.D. Ill.) (Class and collective action alleging violations related to wages and hours worked; matter ongoing)
- *Rodriguez, et al. v. Groundscape Concepts, Inc.*, 10-cv-0 8060 (N.D. Ill.) (Class and collective action alleging violations related to wages and hours worked; settlement reached)
- *Crowell v. Stryker Sales Corporation*, 12-cv-1219 (S.D. Ind.) (Class and collective action alleging violations related to the payment of overtime; matter ongoing)
- *Herron, et al. v. Mortgage Now, Inc.*, 12-cv-3605 (E.D. Pa.) (Class and collective action alleging improper exempt classification of mortgage loan officers; matter ongoing)
- *Mazurek v. Compucom Systems, Inc.*, No. 08-CV-00187 (N.D. Ill.) (Class and collective action alleging improper exempt status classification of computer technicians; favorable settlement reached)
- *In Re AON Corp. Wage & Hour Employment Practices Litigation*, No. 08-CV-05802 (N.D. Ill.) (Class and collective MDL action (2 cases) alleging improper exempt status classification of client specialists; successful summary judgment ruling on issue of damages calculation; favorable settlement reached)
- *Flor v. The Judge Group, d/b/a Judge Technical Staffing*, No. 10-CV-00565 (N.D. Ill.) (Class and collective action alleging improper exempt status classification of computer technicians; favorable settlement reached)
- *Hancock, et al. v. Midwestern Rental and Linen, LLC*, No. 10-CV-03967 (N.D. Ill.) (ERISA action alleging improper payment of contributions; favorable settlement reached)
- *Aksu, et al. v. Campagna-Turano Bakery, Inc.*, No. 10-CV-06205 (N.D. Ill.) (Class and collective action alleging improper exempt status classification of outside salesmen; matter dismissed)
- *Scott, et al. v. Family Dollar Stores, Inc.*, No. 08-CV-00540 (W.D.N.C.) (Class action filed by female store managers alleging violations of the Equal Pay Act; matter ongoing)
- *In Re Family Dollar Stores, Inc., Wage and Hour Employment Practices Litigation*, No. 3:08-md-1932 (W.D.N.C.) (Class and collective MDL action (21 cases) alleging improper exempt status classification of store managers; successful denial of conditional certification (2 lead actions); matter ongoing)
- *Khnanisho, et al. v. CVS Caremark, et al.*, No. 10-ch-4990 (Circuit Court of Cook County) (Class action alleging violations related to wages, hours worked, and travel time; favorable settlement reached)
- *Wilkins, et al. v. Bank of America*, No. 11-CV-00962 (Class and collective action alleging improper exempt status classification of mortgage loan officers; favorable settlement reached)
- *Kelly, et al. v. Bank of America, et al.*, No. 10-CV-05332 (Class and collective action alleging improper exempt status classification of mortgage loan officers; favorable settlement reached)
- *Smith, et al. v. Kawailoa Dev. LLP*, et al., NO. 11-1-000818 (1st Cir. Haw.) (Class action alleging violations related to wages and service charges; representation ongoing)
- *Miyasato v. Hyatt Corporation, et al.*, No. 11-cv-00716 (D. Haw.) (Class action alleging violations related to wages and service charges; representation ongoing)
- *Hardaway, et al. v. EmployBridge of Dallas, Inc.*, No. 11-CV-3200 (N.D. Ill.) (Class and collective action alleging violations related to wages, vacation pay, and violations of the Illinois Day and Temporary Labor Services Act; representation ongoing)
- *Craig, et al. v. EmployBridge of Dallas, Inc.*, No. 11-CV-3818 (N.D. Ill.) (Class and collective action alleging violations related to wages and violations of the Illinois Day and Temporary Labor Services Act; representation ongoing)
- *Crawford v. Zenta Mortgage Services, LLC*, No. 3:11-cv-129 (W.D.N.C.) (Collective action alleging improper exempt

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status classification of mortgage underwriters; favorable settlement reached)

- *Fast v. Applebee's International, Inc.*, No. 06-cv-4146 (W.D. Mo.) (Class action alleging the improper use of the tip credit for the performance of non-tip producing duties; representation ongoing)
- *Egorugwu v. Enterprise Leasing Co. of Chicago, LLC.*, No. 11-cv-7478 (N.D. Ill.) (Single plaintiff action alleging discrimination on the basis of race, color and national origin; representation ongoing)

Presentations

- "Wage & Hour Law 2012," Bridgeport's Annual Wage & Hour Program, Chicago, IL (October 12, 2012)
- "California Employment Law: Peculiarities, Problems and Proposals," Naperville, IL (October 2012)
- "Wage & Hour Update: Everything You Need to Know Now and in the Future," Chicago, IL (September 2012)
- "Complying with the Illinois Day and Temporary Labor Services Act," presented for Assurance University, Chicago, IL (July 17, 2012)
- "Reclassifying Exempt Employees: Navigating Wage and Hour Pitfalls," presented for the Center For Competitive Management, Chicago, IL (May 2012)
- "Recent Decision in Wal-Mart v. Dukes," presented to the Young Lawyers Section of the Chicago Bar Association, Chicago, IL (September 2011)
- "The Illinois Civil Union Act: What Does It Mean for Employers," in Rosemont, IL (March 2011)

Publications

- Co-author, "Sorry, But That's Not in My Contract: Court Holds that Exotic Dancers Are Not Employees under the FLSA or Arkansas Minimum Wage Act," W*age and Hour Litigation Practice Group Blog* (July 2012)
- Co-author, "Thunder in Paradise - Hawaii District Court Judges Issue Conflicting Opinions on Enforcement Scheme for Hawaii's Tip Statute - Hawaii Supremes to Weigh-in"*Seyfarth Shaw's Wage and Hour Litigation Practice Group Blog* (October 2011)
- Co-author, "*Dukes v. Wal-Mart Stores*: The Transformation Of Wage-And-Hour Litigation?," S*eyfarth Shaw Strategy & Insights Alert* (August 2011)

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