

Susan Gragel

Of Counsel

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Qualifications

Possesses over 35 years of experience in employee benefits, concentrating on matters relating to ERISA, multiemployer plan liability, fiduciary compliance, audits, governmental investigations, fund administration and contracting, healthcare, and apprenticeship issues.

Leads complex litigation in federal and state courts with concentration in employment and labor relations for private and public sector employees, employee benefits, collective bargaining, and arbitrations.

Assists Trustees and plan personnel in compliance under the complex federal laws that affect their plans and fiduciary duties, including regular advice on plan governance, plan administration and plan investment matters.

Has handled over 100 ERISA delinquency cases in Northern and Southern Districts of Ohio for a wide array of Taft-Hartley multiemployer benefit plans.

Education

- Cleveland-Marshall College of Law, Cleveland State University, J.D., cum laude
- Research Editor, Cleveland State Law Review
- Cleveland State University, B.A., cum laude

Bar Admissions

- State of Ohio
- U.S. District Courts for the Northern and Southern Districts of OH and the Eastern District of KY
- U.S. Courts of Appeals for the Sixth and Third Circuits
- United States Tax Court
- United States Supreme Court.

Professional & Civic Associations

- Cleveland Marshall Law Alumni Association (Past President and Life Member)
- Cleveland Metropolitan Bar Association (Judicial Selection Committee (2010-present), Trustee (1995-98), Grievance Committee Chair (1991-93), Labor Law Section)
- Eighth District Judicial Conference (Life Member)
- International Foundation of Employee Benefit Plans
- Super Lawyer (Ohio Employment Law)
- Ohio State Bar Association
- American Bar Association
- Stella Maris, Inc. (Board President)
- Westlake Chinese Cultural Association (Director).

Publications & Speaking Engagements

- "Labor Update: Who's the Boss?" Crain's Cleveland (2016); Employer Handbooks and Other Employer Policies and Application of NLRA, Columbus (2016)
- Employment Issues for Public School Administrators, Point/Counterpoint (2015)
- The Law of Teacher Evaluations, Avoiding Grievances and Lawsuits (2015)
- NLRB Rulemaking-Election Procedures and Notice Posting, the Union Perspective (2012)
- Effective Opening Statements, Federal Bar Association (2010 and 2011)
- Preventing Workplace Harassment, Cleveland (2007)
- Heightened Fiduciary Scrutiny Under Union Ethical Practice Codes (2004)
- Faculty, National Institute of Trial Advocacy, Cleveland (1999)
- ABC's of the Grievance Process", Cleveland Bar Journal (1995) "Drug Testing—The Labor Union Perspective", J. L. and Health (1987).