What's the point of all this?

Despite being a relatively old practice (the U.S. Department of Labor was created in 1884), labor and employment law continues to develop in significant ways. California has for years led the nation in the development of labor and employment law. Because of that, California has some of the most experienced practitioners in the nation. You need no further proof of this than the Daily Journal's annual list of Top Labor & Employment lawyers. As you read through these pages you will find attorneys on the plaintiffs' and defense side involved in every major labor and employment issue of the day. We considered 250 attorneys in compiling a list of 75. We did not include general practitioners, even those who argued marquee labor or employment cases. We wanted this list to be about litigators, and corporate and regulatory specialists.

— The Editors

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EDWARD L. KREISBERG
MEYERS NAVE
Oakland
Specialty: Labor and employment

Kreisberg finds satisfaction in his work representing employers in various avenues of labor and employment law, but also in his work as a negotiator for and adviser to municipalities. He has worked to help cities implement, and defend, their pension, healthcare and retiree benefits.

In his work with corporations, Kreisberg often deals with matters surrounding personnel rules, employee handbooks, department policies, civil service rules, past practice and employer-employee relations resolutions.

In addition to the numerous companies that he has represented, he also has worked to help cities like Galt, National City, Santa Clara and Stockton in their implementation and defense of pension, healthcare and retiree healthcare policy reform.

“I view the work I do with public agencies as a form of public service, and continue to look forward to helping public agencies address their labor, financial and employment issues in a manner that allows them to maintain the best possible service to the public, and in a manner [in] which they can be proud.”

In one of these cases, Kreisberg represented the City of Galt in a successful attempt to negotiate, as he often does, a successor Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the Operating Engineers Local 3 and the Galt Police Officers Association.

The MOU included furloughs and other procedural changes to help the city meet its fiscal needs. Similar cases involving the negotiation of Memoranda of Understanding between cities and various parties can be found in Stockton, and National City, where Kreisberg was likewise successful.

In addition to dealing with labor and employment cases directly, whether as lead counsel or in another significant role, Kreisberg is also a popular speaker and trainer for employers seeking his legal expertise in the realms of labor relations, bargaining, and employee benefits. One recurring speaking engagement for which he is particularly well-known is the annual lecture he gives at the California Public Employer Labor Relations Association (CALPELRA) Conference; topics include “Basics of Bargaining” and “How to Effectively Bargain.”

The key to Kreisberg’s success in law lies not with a single unique trait, he insists, but in his ability to build rapport and lasting relationships, even with attorneys who may sit opposite him in an ongoing dispute.

“There are many outstanding lawyers, and I don’t know that I possess any one quality that separates me from the rest. I will say that I pride myself on the positive and professional relationships I’ve developed with opposing counsels and unions over the years. While our positions in litigation or arbitration or at the bargaining table often differ, I believe honesty, civility and professionalism can itself help lead to solutions and reduce the significant challenges in an active law practice.”

— David McAfee