



Jill P. O'Brien

Partner / President

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Jill is an Equity Partner, the Firm's President and a member of the firm's Executive Committee who has been in practice with Laner Muchin for over 30 years.

Jill's practice has focused on the representation of public and private sector employers in a wide variety of labor relations and employment matters, including collective bargaining negotiations, grievance handling, mediation and interest arbitration hearings. She also defends employers in employment disputes and labor proceedings in court and before agencies such as the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission, Illinois Department of Human Rights, Illinois Human Rights Commission, Chicago Human Rights Commission, the Illinois Department of Labor, and the National Labor Relations Board.

She also counsels employers and offers management training programs concerning day-to-day labor and employment and human resource issues such as terminations, disciplinary issues, leaves of absence, policy issues, wage and hour issues.

Practice Areas

Counseling and Transactional

- EEO and Other Corporate Investigations
- Employee Handbooks, Personnel Policies and Procedures
- Employment Counseling
- Mergers and Acquisitions
- Non-Compete, Executive Employment and Other Agreements
- Plant Closings, Mass Layoffs, WARN Act
- Wage and Hour Compliance and Audits

Labor Management Relations



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HONORS, MEMBERSHIPS AND PUBLICATIONS

- Selected in the Top 50 Women Lawyers 2010-2011, 2018-2019 and 2022, Illinois *Super Lawyers*.
- Best Lawyers in America, Employment Law - Management and Labor Law - Management, 2024 - Present
- Early in her career, she was honored by the *Chicago Daily Law Bulletin* as one of "40 Illinois Attorneys Under Age 40 to Watch." She has since received a Distinguished Service Award from The John Marshall Law School Alumni Association.
- Longstanding member of the Illinois State Bar Association and a present member of the ISBA's Assembly (policy making body); she also has held positions as the ISBA as its Chairperson of the Labor and Employment Law Section Council; Chairperson of the Committee on Mentoring; Women and the Law Committee.
- Past Co-Chair and Executive Committee member of the Chicago Bar Association's Alliance for Women.
- Founding Board Member of the Cynthia L. Bischof Memorial Foundation and serves as a volunteer "Courtwatcher" to the Chicago Metropolitan Battered Women's Network.
- Board of Governors of the Catholic Lawyers Guild of Chicago.
- She is a Fellow in the College of Labor and Employment Lawyers.
- She has served on the Board of Directors and Executive Committee of the John Marshall Law School Alumni Associations.
- She was a member of the Adjunct Faculty of the Loyola School of Law where she taught Employment Discrimination law.

Experience

Below are representative samples of the types of matters Jill handles on behalf of Laner Muchin clients:

- Collective Bargaining
- Grievance Administration
- Labor Arbitrations
- Mediations
- Preventing / Resolving Labor Disputes
- Union Avoidance

Education

Western Illinois University,
B.S., Law Enforcement
Administration

The John Marshall Law
School, 1989.

Admissions

Illinois

U.S. Supreme Court

U.S. District Court for the
Northern District of Illinois



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- ✓ Jill offers practical and legal advice to management representatives in all aspects of employment law on subjects ranging from hiring and disciplining employees to drug/alcohol testing and constitutional protections, policy and document preparation for layoffs, terminations or downsizing or promotional decisions.
- ✓ Legal advice related to the drafting and enforceability of confidentiality, non-competition and other restrictive covenant agreements.
- ✓ Due diligence review in acquisition/sale situations related to WARN, IWARN, effects bargaining, and impact of a collective bargaining agreement on the terms of the purchase or sale agreements.
- ✓ Counseling and other assistance related to an employer's compliance obligations under the Americans with Disabilities Act, the Family and Medical Leave Act, wrongful or retaliation termination, whistleblowing and other constitutional rights cases, the Fair Labor Standards Act and all other state, federal and local employment and labor laws.
- ✓ Presents training sessions and presentations to executives, managers, supervisors, and employees on issues such as harassment avoidance, discrimination, retaliation, wrongful termination and the benefits of recognizing diversity and inclusion in the workplace.
- ✓ Conducts corporate investigations on behalf of the client on various topics including alleged harassment, retaliation, discrimination and other matters.

News, Events, and Publications

34 Laner Muchin Attorneys Honored in 2025 Leading Lawyers Publication
02.27.2025

22 Laner Muchin Attorneys Named in 2025 Illinois Super Lawyers Lists
01.23.2025

Crain's Chicago Business Honors Partner Jill O'Brien as a 2024 Notable Leader in Accounting, Consulting & Law
09.13.2024



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Thirteen Laner Muchin Attorneys Included on *Best Lawyers in America's* 2025 List

08.15.2024

Laner Muchin Attorneys Selected to the 2024 Illinois Super Lawyers and Rising Stars Lists

01.25.2024

Fifteen Laner Muchin Attorneys Listed Amongst Leaders in Their Field by *The Best Lawyers in America* 2024

08.17.2023

Laner Muchin Attorneys Selected to the 2023 Illinois Super Lawyers and Rising Stars Lists

01.24.2023

David Moore and Jill O'Brien Recognized as Elite Boutique Trailblazers by *The National Law Journal*

07.06.2022

Jill O'Brien Shares Updates on Employment and Labor Laws with the Intergovernmental Risk Management Agency (IRMA) and the Illinois Local Government Lawyers Association (ILGL)

02.22.2022

Jill O'Brien Honored on Top 50 Women List in Illinois by Super Lawyers

01.28.2022

Partners Mark Bennett, Thomas Bradley and Jill O'Brien to Present at the Chicago-Kent Law School Annual Public Sector Labor Law Conference

11.30.2021

Jill O'Brien to Discuss Employment Challenges in the Current State of the Pandemic at the ILGL Annual Fall Seminar

11.09.2021



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Jill O'Brien Shares Insights on COVID-19 Vaccination Policies and Employee Whistleblower Claims on WGN Radio

10.11.2021

Jill O'Brien to Share Insights Regarding the Impact of COVID-19 on Labor and Employment in Upcoming ISSA Webinar

09.14.2021

Jill O'Brien to Discuss Labor and Employment Issues Related to COVID-19 at Upcoming Chicago Bar Association Virtual Seminar

05.27.2021

Jill O'Brien Analyzes New Illinois Law on Convictions and Background Checks on the Illinois Public Employer Labor Relations Association Podcast

05.10.2021

Laner Muchin Partner Jill O'Brien to Present at Illinois Search and Staffing Association Legislative Webinar Series I

02.17.2021

Jill O'Brien Interviewed By Karen Conti On WGN Radio Regarding the Families First Coronavirus Response Act

WGN Radio , 03.19.2020

Fourteen Laner Muchin Attorneys Named 2020 Illinois Super Lawyers & Rising Stars

01.29.2020

Jill O'Brien Quoted in Bloomberg Law Regarding Cannabis in the Workplace

Bloomberg Law , 01.06.2020



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Roundtable on Labor & Employment Law: Issues and Strategies for Employers
Crain's Chicago Business, 11.20.2019

Laner Muchin Partners Tom Bradley & Jill O'Brien Presented at the 35th Annual Illinois Public Sector Labor Relations Law Conference
11.15.2019

Fourteen Laner Muchin Attorneys Named 2019 Illinois Super Lawyers & Rising Stars
01.24.2019

Laner Muchin Attorneys Named 2018 Illinois Super Lawyers & Rising Stars
01.01.2018

Twenty-Seven Laner Muchin Attorneys Named 2018 *Illinois Leading & Emerging Lawyers*
01.01.2018

Laner Muchin Attorney Jill O'Brien Selected in the Top 50 Women Lawyers in 2018 *Illinois Super Lawyers*
01.01.2018

Fast Laner

Frequently Asked Questions Regarding the Illinois Salary History Ban
Jill O'Brien, 09.20.2019