

Laura M. Leahy

Chicago, IL

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SENIOR COUNSEL

Overview

Laura is a labor and employment attorney with more than a decade of legal experience spanning complex litigation, public sector advocacy, and executive legal leadership. Early in her career, during her decade as a criminal prosecutor, Laura learned that those she represented did not just need someone to fight for them; they also need understanding and empathy. As a result, she connects with clients on a deeper level, a skill that allows her to anticipate and address needs efficiently and comprehensively.

Laura spent the majority of her career as a prosecutor, where she represented victims of crime, conducted numerous bench and jury trials, and developed a reputation for meticulous case preparation, courtroom confidence, and strategic judgment. She later switched to a labor and employment-focused position for a union, where she was responsible for all things labor-related including negotiating multi million dollar collective bargaining agreements and building and managing the organization's legal department.

She understands the need to protect the workplace from violence and threats of violence. She has focused her practice on evaluating the need for workplace protection orders and where appropriate, navigating the waters in order to obtain appropriate relief with an eye on protecting the workplace and employees. She is also experienced with providing training that satisfies state and local anti-harassment and sexual harassment requirements, guiding employers as they navigate through and conduct internal investigations of alleged misconduct.

As senior counsel in the firm's Labor & Employment Service Group, Laura advises clients across all industries with their employment litigation and counseling needs, including wage and hour disputes, discrimination, wrongful termination, workplace investigations, and labor and union relations. She is skilled at drafting and reviewing employment contracts, managing legal compliance, and counseling on current regulations and legislation as well as representing individuals and entities in forums including, but not limited to, federal, state, and

SERVICES

Labor & Employment

EDUCATION

University of Illinois Chicago School of Law, J.D., 2008

Elmhurst University, B.A., 2003

ADMISSIONS

Illinois

local agencies and human resources and personnel boards.

Membership & Involvement

- Volunteer: The John Marshall Law School Trial Advocacy and Alternative Dispute Resolution Program, 2010 - Present; Empire Mock Trial, 2020- Present; Women Everywhere, 2016 - 2022; Women's Insight and Support Through Education, 2016 - 2022; The Chicago Lighthouse, 2016-2022.

Court Admissions: Illinois; U.S. District Court for the Northern District of Illinois

Firm News

Attorney Laura Leahy Joins Amundsen Davis's Chicago Office
Firm News, July 7, 2025

Speaking Engagements

Better Hiring Through Better Questions
Speaking Engagement, Illinois Chamber; Webcast, March 4, 2026

Better Hiring Through Better Questions
Speaking Engagement, Lorman, Webcast, December 11, 2025

Blog Posts

Will *SEC v. Jarkesy* Reshape How the NLRB Operates? Fifth Circuit Bars NLRB From Prosecuting Unfair Labor Practices: Implications for Employers
Labor & Employment Law Update, October 14, 2025

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