

Terence P. Smith

Chicago, IL

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PARTNER

Overview

With 25 years handling labor and employment cases, Terence leverages his past experience of private practice advocacy and client-side decision-making experience to representing employers. He understands the pressures facing business leaders, managers, and in-house counsel alike. He knows that legal advice must work in practice—not just in theory—and how litigation, bargaining, and employee relations play out in real time. That perspective enables him to anticipate client concerns, cut through complexity, and deliver solutions that align with the law and the employer's legitimate goals. The result: representation that is legally sound, practical, and attuned to the clarity and peace of mind employers want.

In private practice, Terence defended employers in cases involving discrimination, harassment, retaliation, wage and hour disputes, and traditional labor matters including union organizing campaigns, collective bargaining, and unfair labor practice litigation. This included representation of clients nationwide across diverse industries, including higher education, manufacturing, construction, and food service, before appellate, and federal courts as well as state agencies, mediators, and arbitrators. He also trained management teams on labor and employment best practices, conducted employee classification and compensation audits, provided counsel on handbooks and agreements, and led workplace investigations

Terence then stepped into the client's role, serving as the sole representative for a college's traditional labor relations. There, he managed all facets of the college's relationship with multiple unions—day-to-day liaising and contract administration, advising management, handling grievances, and negotiating collective bargaining agreements. When labor litigation ensued, Terence defended the college as sole counsel for arbitrations and National Labor Relations Board litigation.

SERVICES

Labor & Employment

EDUCATION

IIT Chicago-Kent College of Law, J.D., 2000, *with honors*

Loyola University Chicago, M.S., 1997

University of Scranton, B.A., 1990

ADMISSIONS

Illinois

Membership & Involvement

Court Admissions: Illinois; U.S. District Court, Northern District of Illinois; U.S. District Court, Northern District of Indiana; U.S. District Court, Eastern District of Michigan

Blog Posts

AI in Employment-Related Decisions Part 2: State Strategies to Address Pressure and What It Means for Employers

Labor & Employment Law Update, October 23, 2025

AI in Employment-Related Decisions Part 1: Big Tech and Federal Power

Labor & Employment Law Update, October 21, 2025

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