



STEVEN J. PEARLMAN

age 39

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“Reliable, passionate
and committed.”

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under
F O R T Y 2011

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Major companies faced with high-stakes employment litigation turn to Steven J. Pearlman, a partner in Seyfarth Shaw's Labor and Employment Department. At age 39, already he is the co-chair of the firm's national Sarbanes-Oxley Act Whistleblower Team. His clients and peers alike consider Steve the national go-to attorney in defending against whistleblower claims. *The Wall Street Journal* and other leading publications often turn to Pearlman and he has appeared on *Bloomberg News* to debate cutting-edge legal issues.

Pearlman's practice focuses on defending employers against nationwide class actions and single-plaintiff claims of discrimination, harassment and violations of wage-and-hour laws. A number of his cases involve high-level executives and challenges to wide-reaching policies. Juries and judges find him to be a compelling trial attorney, as evidenced by the successful verdicts he has achieved for clients in Illinois, Florida, and California. He also defended what is reported to be the largest Illinois-only class action in the history of the U.S. District Court for the Northern District of Illinois.

Pearlman's acumen, according to one in-house attorney, allows him to quickly see the patterns in seemingly chaotic situations. "Steve is able to size-up complicated matters and nuanced legal issues rapidly and then architect high-level solutions, keeping our business objectives in sight. His abilities in these areas vastly exceed the expectations of an attorney his age," the attorney said.

Another in-house attorney nominating Pearlman for recognition, after Pearlman secured dismissal of a complicated employment lawsuit against his company, offered this praise: "I have practiced law for 32 years, but I have never seen such a thorough, tenacious and tireless defense, ever," said the nominating attorney. "And Steve's defense was maintained against a plaintiff's attorney whose style was to bury the defendant in a blizzard of motions and discovery demands; yet, every single motion, every single email, every single discovery demand was answered and skillfully defended against in record time – usually within hours, not days. It was remarkable."

And another nominator and long-time client of Pearlman's had this to say after Pearlman recently had a case of theirs dismissed with no payment to the plaintiff: "Steve has managed to keep our costs down in other litigation without sacrificing quality through the way he staffs cases and the cost effective strategies he devises. This is what clients need in this economic climate."

It's not just clients who value Pearlman's skills; important organizations have sought Pearlman's expertise to mold policy. For example, the U.S. Department of Labor's Administrative Review Board invited Pearlman to serve as a stakeholder in its rule-making and related proceedings and in an *amicus curiae* capacity. Also, he was selected by the RAND Corporation to present at an exclusive symposium comprising influential leaders on ethics and compliance, whistleblower laws and related policy issues.

One of the great things about Pearlman is his ability to simultaneously see the big picture yet attend to every little detail as well, says attorney Florie Perellis, Vice President, Assistant Secretary, Assistant General Counsel – Corporate Litigation at Allstate Insurance. "Steve understands his clients' needs when hiring outside counsel and provides innovative and unusually creative solutions to pressing legal issues," Perellis said. "He focuses not just on winning cases, but on preventative measures aimed at protecting our bottom line and reputation."

Dan Winters, a partner at Jenner & Block LLP with whom Steve previously worked, commented, "It was during a multi-plaintiff jury trial...when I gained a deeper understanding of how reliable, passionate and committed Steve was to client service, teamwork and overall results. We achieved a complete defense verdict."

In addition to working at Seyfarth Shaw, Pearlman co-chairs the Anti-Defamation League's Civil Rights Committee for the Midwest Region of the country.

COMMITTED TO EXCELLENCE

Steven J. Pearlman works tirelessly to protect and promote his clients' interests. Steve is on the front line, defending employers of all sizes in complex employment litigation. He has successfully tried cases to verdict in multiple states and has defended nationwide class actions involving thousands of employees. A pioneer in defending whistleblower claims that challenge employers' compliance with myriad laws, Steve is the co-chair of Seyfarth Shaw's national Sarbanes-Oxley Act Whistleblower Team. In addition to major companies, the media (television and print), tribunals and even one of the world's leading non-partisan think tanks turn to Steve for his thought leadership.

Seyfarth Shaw congratulates Steve on being named one of "40 Illinois Attorneys Under Forty to Watch."