



James L. Curtis

Partner

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Biography

Practices & Sectors

Workplace Safety and Environmental

Catastrophe Response Team

Commercial Litigation

Labor & Employment

Workplace Safety and Health (OSHA/MSHA)

Environmental Compliance, Enforcement & Permitting

Workplace Safety and Health (OSHA/MSHA)

Specialty Teams

Whistleblower Team

Safety, Aviation/Transportation & Environmental Whistleblower Team

Employment Whistleblower Team

Workplace Whistleblower

Transportation and Logistics Team

Mr. Curtis is a partner in Seyfarth Shaw's Environmental, Safety and Toxic Torts (ESTT) practice group and co-chair of Seyfarth's Whistleblower Team. He has extensive experience litigating environmental and safety issues with both the government and private parties. He focuses his ESTT practice on OSHA matters defending against OSHA citations and whistleblower investigations. Mr. Curtis has defended numerous clients against significant willful and repeat OSHA citations in both federal OSHA jurisdictions before the Occupational Safety and Health Review Commission and before the various State Plan agencies. He has also successfully represented clients in numerous fatality/catastrophe investigations throughout the United States.

Mr. Curtis regularly defends clients in OSHA investigated whistleblower complaints brought under federal laws such as OSHA 11(c), the Surface Transportation Assistance Act (STAA), FAA air safety regulations (AIR 21) and Sarbanes Oxley (SOX).

Mr. Curtis is a part of the firm's Catastrophe Response Team and regularly assists clients responding to severe industrial and other workplace accidents, such as explosions and fatalities.

Mr. Curtis has experience litigating in both federal and state court, including class actions, and before administrative agencies.

Mr. Curtis frequently speaks to trade and industry groups on Catastrophe Response, workplace safety (OSHA), workplace violence and whistleblower matters.

Education

- J.D., Loyola University, Chicago, School of Law (1990)
- B.A., Albion College (1987)

Admissions

- Illinois

Courts

- United States Supreme Court
- U.S. Court of Appeals for the Seventh and Eleventh Circuits
- U.S. District Court for the District of Colorado

- U.S. District Court for the Northern District of Illinois
- U.S. District Court for the Eastern District of Wisconsin

Affiliations

- American Bar Association
- American Trucking Association
- Outdoor Advertising Association of America

Presentations

- "After the Hurricanes: Protecting Employees During Response and Recovery Operations," Webinar, presented by Seyfarth Shaw LLP (September 27, 2017)
- "Impending OSHA Liabilities," Webinar, presented by Seyfarth Shaw LLP (June 16, 2016)
- "2016 OSHA Update for the Retail Industry," Webinar, presented by Seyfarth Shaw LLP (March 2, 2016)

Publications

- Co-Author, "Workplace Safety Comes to the Forefront for Expanding Healthcare Industry," *One Minute Memo*, Seyfarth Shaw LLP (August 31, 2018)
- Co-Author, "After the Rain: Disaster Recovery and Employee Safety Following Hurricane Harvey," *Management Alert*, Seyfarth Shaw LLP (August 31, 2017)
- Co-Author, "What to Expect From OSHA in a President-Elect Trump Administration," *One Minute Memo*, Seyfarth Shaw LLP (November 18, 2016)
- Co-Author, "New Budget Deal to Significantly Increase OSHA Fines for the First Time in Twenty-Five Years," *One Minute Memo*, Seyfarth Shaw LLP (November 3, 2015)
- Co-Author, "Employer Ordered to Pay Whistleblower \$100,000 in Punitive Damage" *Workplace Whistleblower*, Seyfarth Shaw LLP (October 13, 2015)
- Co-Author, "Winter Storm Juno: Helping Employers Anticipate Wage & Hour and Workplace Safety Concerns," *Management Alert*, Seyfarth Shaw LLP (January 26, 2015)
- Co-Author, "Employee Makes Fabricated Ombudsman Hotline Report. Can He Be Disciplined?" *Workplace Whistleblower*, Seyfarth Shaw LLP (January 28, 2014)
- "Supervisor Scares Employees - Can They Refuse to Work With Him?" *Workplace Whistleblower*, Seyfarth Shaw LLP (January 21, 2014)
- Co-Author, "Employee calls OSHA, can she now refuse to work?" *Workplace Whistleblower*, Seyfarth Shaw LLP (November 26, 2013)
- Co-Author, "Issue 54: OSHA Announces Procedures for Handling Whistleblower Complaints Under the Affordable Care Act," *Health Care Reform Management Alert*, Seyfarth Shaw LLP (March 4, 2013)
- Co-Author, "OSHA Announces Procedures For Handling Whistleblower Complaints Under The Affordable Care Act," *One Minute Memo*, Seyfarth Shaw LLP (March 1, 2013)
- Co-Author, "Top 10 Whistleblower Decisions of 2012," *Whistleblower Team Management Alert*, Seyfarth Shaw LLP (January 24, 2013)

- Co-author, "After the Storm: Workplace Safety and Wage & Hour Considerations," *Management Alert*, Seyfarth Shaw LLP (October 30, 2012)
- "Labor & Employment Hospitality Quarterly Update: Five Key Labor And Employment Issues Hospitality Employers Need To Be Aare Of; Increased OSHA Enforcement: A Real Concern For Hospitality Industry," *Labor & Employment Hospitality Newsletter*, Seyfarth Shaw LLP (June 2012)