



Tradition of Labor

Influencing the Course of Labor Law
to Serve our Client's Needs



Since our firm's beginning, Seyfarth attorneys have championed the interests of management when dealing with organized labor.

Over the years, our attorneys have tried and argued widely-cited labor cases before the National Labor Relations Board (NLRB), the United States Supreme Court, lower courts, the National Mediation Board (NMB), state labor boards, and labor arbitrators. Seyfarth attorneys and alumni have both chaired and served as Members of the NLRB, chaired national and regional bar association labor law committees, authored cutting-edge treatises and articles, and testified before government panels on labor relations issues. The depth of our commitment to influencing the course of labor law to serve our clients' needs is unparalleled.

And as this timeline shows, we continue to build upon our leadership role today. Please do not hesitate to contact one of our Labor & Employee relations attorneys if you have any questions.

1940s and 50s

THE FOUNDING AND DEVELOPMENT OF LABOR RELATIONS LAW

- On February 1, 1945, Henry Seyfarth, Owen Fairweather, and Lee Shaw establish a law firm specializing in representing employers in labor relations matters.
- Lee Shaw helps draft the Taft-Hartley Act, which Congress intended to rein in the excesses of union activity under the National Labor Relations Act (NLRA).
- The firm files the first strike damage suit in U.S. District Court, against the United Steelworkers of America in Chicago.
- The firm is retained by a dozen Chicago restaurants to form an association of restaurants and negotiate their labor contracts, which helps to police labor relations in the restaurant industry and avoid improper conduct.

1940s and 50s

1960s and 70s

1980s and 90s

2000 to Today

1960s and 70s

GROWTH AND EXPANSION

- The firm represents the newly-organized Las Vegas casinos during their difficult and contentious labor negotiations.
- The firm challenges Cesar Chavez and his United Farm Workers (UFW) on behalf of California growers under the newly-enacted California Agricultural Labor Relations Act.
- The firm represents a Wisconsin newspaper in successfully resisting a strike by the International Typographical Union and goes on to build one of the country's largest newspaper industry labor relations practice.
- The firm hires its first African-American associate attorney, who later becomes a partner in the firm before leaving to become a law school professor, federal judge, and later the chief judge on a United States Court of Appeals.
- The firm assists Chicago taxi companies in their lengthy dispute with a union seeking to represent drivers, succeeding in its argument that the drivers are not employees but instead independent contractors without the right to organize under the NLRA.
- Lee Shaw is appointed by Governor Otto Kerner to the Wagner Commission, which is to recommend appropriate policies for public sector labor relations in Illinois.
- President Lyndon B. Johnson appoints Lee Shaw to serve on the President's advisory committee on labor-management policy.
- The firm hires its first female associate who became partner, concentrating on labor matters. She ultimately is elected to the American College of Labor and Employment Lawyers.
- The firm opens a Los Angeles office to better support its work for the California growers in labor negotiations with the UFW and a New York office to better support its newspaper clients.
- The firm succeeds in ending the Steelworkers walkout at a major shipyard and the lengthy Pressmens' strike at a major Washington, D.C. newspaper and serves as counsel and negotiator for the New York City newspapers during their historic 1978 trade union strike.

1940s and 50s

1960s and 70s

1980s and 90s

2000 to Today

1980s and 90s

BUILDING ON OUR FOUNDERS' SUCCESS: THE NEXT GENERATION

- The firm represents the Detroit newspapers in successfully navigating one of the most violent and confrontational strikes in the United States over the past 50 years.
- The firm represents a major airline in protracted litigation by its pilots and flight attendants resulting from a month-long strike that had reduced the airline's flight schedule to 14% of its normal operations.
- The firm opens a San Francisco office to better support its newspaper and hotel clients.
- The firm is successful in an arbitration over withdrawal liability against the Central States Teamsters Pension Fund, helping to establish the firm's leadership in representing employers in pension withdrawal liability disputes.
- The firm builds one of the country's largest health care labor relations practices, advising during numerous union organizing campaigns and handling collective bargaining for many unionized hospitals, often involving bargaining units of thousands of nurses or hospital staff.
- The firm negotiates a transformative concessionary labor package for a multinational food ingredient and chemical processor that ends a contentious 31-month lockout of roughly 800 employees, while successfully defending more than 80 separate unfair labor practice charges.

1940s and 50s

1960s and 70s

1980s and 90s

2000 to Today

2000 to Today

THE NEW MILLENNIUM

- The firm serves as lead outside counsel in several corporate campaigns by major unions all across the country.
- The firm successfully concludes a series of difficult labor negotiations with different labor unions to reach significant concessionary collective bargaining agreements, often after strikes or lockouts, for multiple large sugar refineries on the East, West and Gulf Coasts.
- The firm assists retail grocers during a strike and lockout of 80,000 employees in Southern California, the largest work stoppage in the country during the past 20 years.
- The firm's arguments on behalf of the business community carry the day in the U.S. Supreme Court regarding the NLRB's lack of authority to issue decisions with only two Members.
- The firm represents a Texas employer involved in one of the largest lockouts in the country, prevailing before the NLRB in affirming the company's good-faith bargaining with the Steelworkers and upholding the lawfulness of the company's 20-month lockout.
- The firm's lawyers continue to lead negotiations in a wide spectrum of industries involving today's most intractable labor issues, including the termination of participation in both single-employer and multi-employer defined benefit pension plans, changes to retiree health benefits, and addressing uncapped health care costs.
- The firm advises a major telecommunications company throughout a strike by thousands of its employees stretching over four months.
- The firm assists a major airline in negotiating successful labor agreements with several of its unions covering more than 50,000 employees and integrating two different work forces during a high-profile merger.
- The firm serves as counsel to multiple manufacturers during lengthy nationwide strike by major international union against the employers' industry, advising them throughout the negotiations and work stoppage, and defending related legal claims.

1940s and 50s

1960s and 70s

1980s and 90s

2000 to Today

About Seyfarth's Labor Management Relations Practice

3

Three current Seyfarth Labor Management Relations attorneys have been attorneys at the NLRB.

50+

Seyfarth has more than **50 attorneys** dedicated to practicing Labor Relations Law.

4

Over our firm's history, four Seyfarth Labor Management Relations attorneys have served on the NLRB.

1

One current Seyfarth Labor Management Relations attorney has served as the NLRB's Executive Secretary, the agency's highest-ranking career position.

1k+

Our attorneys have negotiated nearly **1,000 collective bargaining** agreements, handled more than **2,200 arbitrations**, and defended more than **1,400 unfair labor practice charges**.

1

One alumnus of Seyfarth's Labor Management Relations practice group currently serves as an NLRB Administrative Law Judge.



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