



Cornell University
ILR School
Labor and Employment Law Program

Whistleblower Retaliation: Significant Changes for Employers and Employees

Thursday, April 11, 2013

Steven J. Pearlman

Steven J. Pearlman is a partner in Proskauer Rose LLP in the Labor & Employment Law Department and co-head of the firm's Whistleblowing & Retaliation Group, resident in the Chicago office. Steven's practice is focused on representing management in complex employment litigation and counseling management to minimize the risk of litigation.

Steven was one of five U.S. lawyers selected by *Law 360* as a "Rising Star Under 40" in the area of Employment. He also was selected as one of "40 Illinois Attorneys Under Forty to Watch" by the *Law Bulletin Publishing Company* from a field of 1,200 nominees. In addition, he has been named a "Rising Star" in employment litigation defense on multiple occasions by *Illinois Super Lawyers*.

Steven defends employers of all sizes in complex employment litigation involving claims of discrimination and harassment, wage-and-hour laws and breaches of restrictive covenants. A number of his cases involve executives, claims brought by thousands of employees, and challenges to wide-reaching policies. He has successfully tried cases to verdict in Illinois, Florida and California and 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.

In addition, Steven is at the forefront of defending management against whistleblower claims, and he provides comprehensive counseling to minimize the risk of whistleblower claims. Steven was selected by the RAND Corporation (one of the world's leading think-tanks) to submit a white paper and present at an exclusive symposium comprised of some of the most influential thought leaders on whistleblower laws and related policy issues. Steven also was appointed to serve as a Special Assistant Attorney General for the State of Illinois in employment litigation matters and the U.S. Department of Labor's Administrative Review Board has invited him to serve as a stakeholder in its rule-making and related proceedings and to serve in an *amicus curiae* capacity.