

GO TO Lawyers

Employment

Liam T. O'Connell

Co-managing partner
Nutter, Boston

Liam T. O'Connell wears numerous hats at Nutter. In addition to maintaining an employment law practice that is national in scope, he also chairs its labor, employment and benefits practice group while presiding over the firm's operations as co-managing partner.

O'Connell's practice encompasses nearly all areas of labor and employment law, including counseling clients on employment matters, representing them in traditional labor matters like collective bargaining, strike planning, union organizing campaigns and labor arbitrations, handling occupational safety and health issues, and litigating employment, restrictive covenant and whistleblower cases in state and federal court.

This year, O'Connell established new precedent before the Supreme Judicial Court. In *Automile Holdings, LLC v. McGovern* he represented a chain of car dealerships who fired an executive who, as part of the sale of his ownership interest, had signed a "no raid" provision where he agreed not to poach the company's employees.

The former executive challenged the enforceability of the provision, but O'Connell convinced the SJC that the provision was enforceable in this context, which was more akin to the sale of a business than to an employment relationship.



O'Connell has also represented banking institutions in whistleblower litigation before the federal Occupational Safety and Health Commission and in U.S. District Court for the District of Massachusetts. These cases include complaints brought under the Dodd-Frank Wall Street Reform and Consumer Protection Act, the Corporate and Criminal Fraud Accountability Act, the False Claims Act and the Federal Deposit Insurance Act.

Most recently, as the COVID-19 pandemic has sent shockwaves through the employment arena, O'Connell has served as a resource to corporations across New England and the United States as they navigate coronavirus-related regulations, policies and benefits impacting the workplace.

Achievements and professional activities:

Chair, labor, employment and benefits practice group; co-chair, Open Space Committee, Town of Cohasset; president, Basketball Boosters, Town of Cohasset; president, Cohasset Little League; admissions liaison representative, United States Military Academy