



Shawn Matthew Clark

Shareholder

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Practice Areas

Business Restructuring and M&A
Unfair Competition and Trade Secrets
Litigation and Trials
Discrimination and Harassment
Executive Compensation
Emerging Companies and Venture Capital
Financial Services

Overview

Clients of all sizes and stages rely on Shawn Matthew Clark for practical, business-focused advice to help them understand and navigate the constantly changing federal, state, and local laws governing the workplace. In particular, clients engage Shawn for his deep subject matter knowledge in business restructuring and unfair competition issues, and his skills as a litigator.

Business Restructuring and M&A. Shawn's relatable style and ability to analyze and explain complex issues in simple terms have made him a highly sought-after advisor to businesses planning workforce reductions and reorganizations. Shawn counsels clients on compliance with federal and state Worker Adjustment and Retraining Notification (WARN) Acts and the Older Workers Benefit Protection Act (OWBPA). He also partners with clients to create comprehensive reduction-in-force plans that include reasoned business justifications, defensible selection criteria, adverse impact analyses, multistate severance agreements, and a clear communications strategy for affected and nonaffected employees. No two businesses or layoffs are the same, but Shawn's pragmatic approach works for layoffs of a handful of employees and layoffs of thousands. He handles every reorganization with sensitivity to the individuals involved and the impact on each client's business.

Unfair Competition and Trade Secrets. Companies also turn to Shawn for help protecting their trade secrets and enforcing their noncompete, nonsolicitation, and nondisclosure agreements. Shawn drafts the agreements, and when necessary, litigates claims related to those agreements, including claims for breach of contract, misappropriation of confidential information, theft of trade secrets, unfair competition, tortious interference, and breach of the duty of loyalty.

Shawn advocates for and defends his clients vigorously. On behalf of a global professional services company, Shawn obtained a temporary restraining order and a preliminary injunction against three former employees based on breaches of their nonsolicitation and confidentiality obligations. Shawn also defended a noncompetition claim against an employee of a cloud-based data security company resulting in the denial of the request for a preliminary injunction and withdrawal of the claims.

Litigation and Trials. Shawn has extensive experience litigating employment disputes of all types, including defending employers and managers against claims of discrimination, retaliation, and harassment. On behalf of his clients, Shawn has won dispositive motions, temporary restraining orders, preliminary injunctions, defense verdicts, and appeals. He draws on that litigation experience to counsel employers on effective strategies for preventing litigation when possible, and preparing for litigation when it is unavoidable.

Shawn is a core group member of Littler's Business Restructuring and M&A practice group and its Unfair Competition and Trade Secrets practice group.

Before entering private practice, Shawn gained significant litigation and trial experience as an assistant corporation counsel in the Labor and Employment Law Division of the New York City Law Department, where he represented the City of New York, its agencies, and its officers in employment litigation.

Before law school, Shawn worked in the United States Senate for members of the Senate Judiciary Committee and the Senate Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions (HELP), where he honed his communication and advocacy skills.

Professional and Community Affiliations

- Member, Trade Secrets Committee, New York City Bar Association
- Member, Labor & Employment Law Committee, New York City Bar Association
- Program Co-Chair, Employment Law Institute, New York City Bar Association

Events & Speaking Engagements

Reduction in Force Master Class: Strategic Workforce Adjustments in a Changing Political Climate

May 21, 2025

Maximizing Revenue/Minimizing Risk: A Private Equity Guide to Portfolio Management

March 26, 2025

What Issues Are Private Employers Facing with DOGE's Cancellation of Government Contracts and Funding?

March 19, 2025

Multi-State Employment Considerations

New York City Bar Association, 2025 Employment Law Institute

March 7, 2025

Complex Damages Issues in Trade Secret and Non-Compete Disputes

New York City Bar Association, Trade Secret Symposium

December 10, 2024

2024 Tri-State Regional Employer Conference

New York, NY

September 19, 2024

Navigating the Changing Landscape of Workplace Policies – Updates on Key Employment Handbooks, Policies, & Agreements

New York City Bar Association, 2024 Employment Law Institute

March 1, 2024

2023 Tri-State Regional Employer Conference

New York, NY

June 20, 2023

RIF Master Class

Littler Executive Employer Conference, Phoenix, AZ

May 10, 2023

The Seven Deadly Sins of Incentive Compensation Plan Hell

September 13, 2022

Homecare Consolidation: Employment Law Considerations That Can Kill Deals When Buying or Selling a Homecare Business

April 5, 2022

Recognition

- Named, Ones to Watch *The Best Lawyers in America*®, 2023-2025
- Named, Rising Star, New York, *Super Lawyers*, 2022-2023
- Recipient, New York City Law Department Legal Rookie of the Year Award *New York City Law Department*, September 2013
- Recipient, Judge Doris A. Thompson and Judge Edward Thompson Award for Excellence in Trial Advocacy *Brooklyn Law School*, June 2012
- Recipient, CALI Excellence for the Future Award in Trial Advocacy *Brooklyn Law School*, December 2010
- First Place Winner, New York Region *American Bar Association Labor and Employment Trial Advocacy Competition*, November 2010

Education

J.D., Brooklyn Law School, 2012, *cum laude*

B.A., The George Washington University, 2004

Bar Admissions

New York

Courts

U.S. Court of Appeals, 2nd Circuit

U.S. District Court, Southern District of New York

U.S. District Court, Eastern District of New York

U.S. District Court, Northern District of New York

Publications & Press

The First 100 Days: The Impact of DOGE on Private Employers

Littler Podcast

March 3, 2025

Proposed AI Disclosure Under New York's WARN Act

SHRM

February 21, 2025

NY Proposal On AI-Related Layoffs Likely A Dud, Attys Say

Law360 Employment Authority

February 14, 2025

NY Proposes AI Layoff Disclosure Rule Under WARN Act

SHRM

January 29, 2025

Governor Hochul Seeks to Expand New York WARN Notice Requirements to Include AI Disclosures

Littler ASAP

January 23, 2025

Delaware Issues its WARN Act Regulations

Littler ASAP

December 9, 2024

Maryland WARN Act does not provide a private right of action to terminated workers

Wolters Kluwer

October 18, 2024

Maryland WARN Act does not Provide a Private Right of Action to Workers Terminated in Violation of the Law

Wolters Kluwer

October 4, 2024

Maryland WARN Act Does Not Provide a Private Right of Action to Terminated Workers

SHRM

September 30, 2024

Maryland WARN Act Does Not Provide a Private Right of Action to Workers Terminated in Violation of the Law

Littler ASAP

September 24, 2024

Are Non-compete Agreements Dead? A Discussion with Attorney Shawn Matthew Clark

New York County Lawyers Association

August 22, 2024

How HR should be thinking about noncompetes in light of potential state, federal bans

HR Brew

January 17, 2024

New York Governor Rejects Ban on Noncompete Agreements

SHRM Online

January 9, 2024

New York Curtails Release Agreements Involving Claims of Discrimination, Harassment, or Retaliation

SHRM Online

November 28, 2023

New York Enacts Greater Restrictions on Release Agreements Involving Claims of Discrimination, Harassment, or Retaliation

Littler ASAP

November 22, 2023

WARNING: Amendments to the New York WARN Act Regulations are Now in Effect

Littler ASAP

June 26, 2023

Non-Compete Ban on the Horizon in New York?

Littler ASAP

June 20, 2023

New York Seeks to Limit the Scope of Permissible Invention Assignment Agreements

Littler ASAP

June 7, 2023

Accommodating New York's Vaccine Mandate for Health Care Workers

New York Law Journal

October 29, 2021

New York City Mandates Retirement Savings Plans for All

SHRM Online

August 26, 2021

NYC Mandates Retirement for All

Littler ASAP

August 17, 2021

Littler Announces New Shareholders and Principals Elevating 26 Attorneys

Press Release

January 4, 2021

Warning to New York Employers: The NY WARN Act Now Requires WARN Notices be Sent to Additional Governmental Recipients

Littler ASAP

November 11, 2020

Philadelphia Clarifies City's WARN Act to Account for COVID-19-Related Closures

Littler ASAP

April 22, 2020

WARN Act Risks Loom for Employers Re-Hiring or Un-Furloughing Employees to Receive Paycheck Protection Program Funding

Littler ASAP

April 19, 2020

New York and New Jersey Join Growing Ranks of States Penalizing Call Center Relocation

Littler ASAP

February 14, 2020