HUSCH BLACKWELL



William F. LeMaster

SENIOR COUNSEL

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OVERVIEW

Bill represents management in the area of traditional labor law, drawing on nearly 23 years of experience with the National Labor Relations Board (NLRB) to provide clients with practical, informed counsel and advocacy. He practices from Ottawa, Kansas as a member of our virtual office, The Link.

Now in private practice, Bill applies his extensive government experience to traditional labor matters, including union representational issues, unfair labor practice (ULP) investigations, collective bargaining, and related litigation. Having spent his NLRB career enforcing federal labor law from a neutral perspective, he brings valuable insight into how the agency approaches these matters. He uses that knowledge to advise employers proactively—identifying potential labor issues, assessing risk, crafting strategies to achieve their objectives, and helping clients navigate those matters while complying with the law.

Bill's NLRB career taught him that labor law is both complex and easily misunderstood, even when actions are taken with the best of intentions. He believes effective counsel begins with helping clients understand their rights and obligations and the potential implications of their decisions. Drawing on his training as an investigator, Bill approaches each matter by asking the right questions and developing a thorough understanding of the facts before providing guidance. His deliberate, fact-driven approach allows him to tailor his advice to each client's circumstances.

Industries

Manufacturing
Technology
Transportation

Services

Labor & Employment
Traditional Labor Relations

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During his NLRB tenure, Bill spent more than 18 years as a field attorney, investigating hundreds of ULP cases and handling representational matters involving union and non-union employers. He also litigated numerous cases before NLRB administrative law judges, representing the agency in matters involving alleged violations of the National Labor Relations Act, including significant cases resulting in injunctive relief and contempt proceedings. His litigation work also contributed to Board precedent establishing enhanced remedies for recidivist violators of the Act.

For his final four years at the NLRB, Bill served as a supervisory field attorney, overseeing teams of attorneys and investigators and reviewing complex ULP investigations and litigation. Colleagues at both the local and national levels recognized his thoroughness, sound analysis, and careful preparation—qualities he brings to his practice today.

Recognition

- NLRB's Norton J. Come Award (for legal excellence), 2021

Education

- J.D., University of Kansas School of Law
- MBA, University of Kansas School of Business
    - Minor: Human Resources
- B.S., Emporia State University
    - *magna cum laude*
    - Business Administration
    - Minor: Economics

Admissions

- Kansas

Bill is associated with the Houston office for telephone and mail purposes only. He is not admitted to practice in Missouri.

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*Bill works remotely and is licensed in Kansas, practicing in Ottawa, KS. Contact Bill via email or phone for in-person/virtual meetings. Use the Houston office address for mail/deliveries only.

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