McElroy Deutsch

John A. Ridley



Of Counsel

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Curriculum Vitae

JOHN A. RIDLEY counsels clients in management-side labor and employment law. He has been involved in litigating employment and labor disputes and counseling in those areas, for more than 35 years.

Mr. Ridley has successfully defended employers in large-scale class and collective actions involving employee and applicant claims of race, age, wage and benefits discrimination. He has argued a number of significant employment causes in the federal courts of appeal and has argued an Age Discrimination in Employment Act/Fair Labor Standards Act case in the U.S. Supreme Court.

Mr. Ridley has written numerous articles and speaks regularly before business and professional groups. He has taught multiple seminars for the New Jersey Institute of Continuing Legal Education, including “Employment Discrimination – Pretrial to Verdict,” “Employment Law in Federal Courts,” “Trial Techniques for Employment Lawyers,” “Litigating the Employment Discrimination Case,” “Employers Beware: Workplace Violence,” and “Defending FLSA Collective Actions.” Mr. Ridley has also spoken at the Annual Meeting of the American Bar Association, and addressed the American Employment Law Council on “Opposing Collective Actions under the FLSA.”

He is a Fellow in the College of Labor and Employment Lawyers and he has been selected for inclusion among the *International Who’s Who of Management Labour and Employment Lawyers*. Mr.

Ridley is recognized annually in *Chambers USA* Leading Lawyers of Business.

Upon graduating from law school, Mr. Ridley served a two-year clerkship for the Hon. Lawrence A. Whipple in the federal district court in New Jersey.

Awards

- Listed in Best Lawyers® (2003-2027), a Woodward/White, Inc. business and partners with U.S. News & World Report, in the areas of Litigation - Labor and Employment, Labor Law - Management, and Employment Law - Management. He was also recognized as the 2023 "Lawyer of the Year" for Labor Law - Management in the Newark area. A description of the standard or methodology on which the accolade is based can be found HERE (No aspect of the advertisement has been approved by the Supreme Court).
- Recognized in Chambers USA in the area of Labor & Employment, New Jersey (2004-2026). A description of the standard or methodology on which the accolade is based can be found HERE. (No aspect of the advertisement has been approved by the Supreme Court).
- Listed in Super Lawyers® (2005-2023), a Thomson Reuters business, in the area of Employment & Labor. A description of the standard or methodology on which the accolade is based can be found HERE (No aspect of the advertisement has been approved by the Supreme Court).
- Martindale-Hubbell AV Preeminent Rated (2026) - Martindale-Hubbell's highest peer rating standard. This is given to attorneys who are ranked at the highest level of professional excellence for their legal expertise, communication skills, and ethical standards by their peers. A description of the standard or methodology on which the accolade is based can be found HERE (No aspect of the advertisement has been approved by the Supreme Court).
- Recipient of the Trial Attorneys of New Jersey's Trial Bar Award (2012). This prestigious award recognizes those experienced trial lawyers whose professional careers exemplify the highest standards of trial practice and ethical conduct. A description of the standard or methodology on which the accolade is based can be found HERE (No aspect of the advertisement has been approved by the Supreme Court).

Industries

Financial Institutions
Health Care Institutions
Pharmaceutical, Medical Devices & Life Sciences

Practices

Class Actions
Labor & Employment
Litigation

Education

University of Virginia Law School (J.D. 1968)
Saint Peter's College (A.B. 1965)

Admissions

State of New Jersey
Supreme Court of the United States
U.S. Court of Appeals, 1st Circuit
U.S. Court of Appeals, 2nd Circuit
U.S. Court of Appeals, 3rd Circuit
U.S. Court of Appeals, 9th Circuit
U.S. District Court, District of New Jersey
U.S. Court of Appeals, Federal Circuit

Memberships

Essex County Bar Association
Academy of New Jersey Management Attorneys (ANJMA)
American Bar Association, Labor & Employment Law Section, Equal Employment Opportunity Committee
New Jersey State Bar Association, Labor & Employment Section, Executive Committee
Trial Attorneys of New Jersey, Board Member
Fellow, College of Labor & Employment Lawyers