

James Parks

PARTNER

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Practice Areas

- Litigation & Dispute Resolution
- Employment & Labor
- Executive Compensation & Employee Benefits

Education

- Pepperdine University
School of Law
J.D.
- University of Arizona
Honors Program
B.A.
- Studied at Michigan State
University

Bar Admissions

- Michigan
- Texas
- Pennsylvania

Overview

Jim Parks is an attorney in our Litigation & Dispute Resolution, Employment & Labor and Executive Compensation & Employee Benefits practice groups. Jim has represented businesses in complex litigation and employment matters for over three decades.

Jim has an innate ability to quickly hone in on the germane issues in complex legal problems and his commitment to efficiently resolving problems has earned him a national reputation with companies needing strategic legal advice. His clients regard him as a trusted partner and counselor in their success. According to one client, *"Jim is down to earth, smart and practical. He has a remarkable talent to quickly grasp complex issues and forge quick and practical resolutions. That is refreshing to me as the president of a multi-national company"*.

Likewise, Jim is a seasoned, and respected trial lawyer, developing a remarkable record of success in trials throughout the United States. He is also a certified mediator. His advice, experience and advocacy draw from many areas of law, including complex litigation, traditional labor law, intellectual property rights, international transactions, bullet-resistant armor, Uniform Commercial Code, theft of rare artifacts, probate matters, discrimination, and class action defense. Jim is a past president of the Oakland County Bar Association and the recipient of many coveted awards including the Professionalism Award and the Leon Hubbard Community Service award for his tireless efforts related to diversity and inclusion. He is frequently invited to speak and serve on panels on employment law and other matters related to litigation and the practice of law.

Significant Matters

- A multimillion dollar resolution against a foreign entity for breach of warranties following over 18 months of trial in Federal Court
- The successful defeat of myriad union organizational drives in Alaska, Texas, Boston, Detroit, Georgia and Tennessee
- The retrieval of a stolen, one-of-a-kind Louis C. Tiffany lamp completing a collection auctioned at Christie's Auction House

Publications

- "Not-So-Fringe Benefits – What Employers Need to Know About Michigan's Evolving and Expanded Unemployment Benefits." *Dbusiness* (April 12, 2020)
- "E-Discovery and the Business Lawyer," *Michigan Business Law Journal* (2007)
- How To Maneuver through Collective Bargaining and Avoiding Unfair Labor Practice (2013)
- Monthly "Presidents Page" article in *Laches* (Lawyers Periodical)

Speaking Engagements

- Keynote speaker on Employment Law at the 10,000 Small Business Initiative in Detroit – sponsored by Goldman Sachs and Governor Rick Snyder
- Emcee for League of Women Judicial Candidates Forums
- Lead source in a PBS segment regarding the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act
- Keynote speaker on weight discrimination broadcasts, articles and seminars
- Moderator for the Labor and Employment Breakout Section of Crain's General Counsel Summit
- Employment Law in The Digital Age
- Frequent lecturer on civil procedure, e-discovery, labor, employment and litigation matters
- Keynote speaker and guest on various Television and Radio Programs

Affiliations

- Oakland County Bar Association, Past President
- Oakland County Circuit Court, Discovery Master and Case Evaluator
- State Bar of Michigan
- State Court Administrative Office, approved and certified Mediator
- American Bar Association
- State Bar of Michigan, Past Representative to the General Assembly
- Oakland County Bar Foundation, Fellow
- Oakland County Bar, Sustaining Member
- State Bar of Texas
- Pennsylvania Bar Association
- Winning Futures, Past Board Member and Current Advisory Board Member
- Winning Futures, Mentor
- Generation of Promise, Past Board Member
- Village of Beverly Hills Zoning & Strategic Planning Committees, Past Member and Chair
- Northbrook Presbyterian, Past Head of Stewardship Committee
- Elite Success Partners , Sponsor and Member
- Advocate and Author regarding Mental Health and Dependency issues within the legal profession

Recognition

- Bar Professionalism Award recipient
- Leon Hubbard Community Service Award