

**Debra H. Dawahare**

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Lexington Office

Debra H. Dawahare is Chair of the Firm's Labor & Employment Service Team. She concentrates her practice in the areas of employment law and general litigation. Ms. Dawahare regularly counsels employers with regard to other employment issues, such as handbooks, policies, hiring, discipline and discharge.

Representative Litigation

- Jury verdict in favor of Asbury College in breach of contract case.
- Unanimous verdict in favor of Berea College in a sex discrimination case.
- Summary judgment and published appellate decision in favor of Papa John's International, Inc. in a sex discrimination and retaliation case.
- Summary judgment in favor of Green's Toyota in personal injury case alleging negligent repair.
- Summary judgments or jury verdicts for defendants in numerous cases of sexual harassment, workers' compensation retaliation, disability discrimination, age discrimination and race discrimination.

Representative Clients

- James River Coal Company
- International Coal Group, Inc.
- CMH of Kentucky, Inc.
- 3M
- AT&T
- Berea College
- Centre College
- Asbury College
- Sayre School
- Alice Lloyd College
- Georgetown College

Professional Experience

- Co-counsel with the late Bert T. Combs in the landmark case of Rose v. Council for Better Education, in which the entire system of school finance in Kentucky was declared unconstitutional
- Taught legal writing at the University of Kentucky for several years

- Volunteer mediator at the Mediation Center of Central Kentucky

Honors

- Woodward/White's 2006-2010 editions of *The Best Lawyers in America*® in the area of Labor & Employment
- Recognized in *Kentucky Super Lawyer* 2007, 2008, 2009®
- *Chambers U.S.A.: America's Leading Lawyers* in the area of Labor & Employment 2004, 2005, 2006, 2007, 2008, 2009
- Leadership Lexington, Class of 2000
- Leadership Kentucky, Class of 2008

Education

1983 - J.D., University of Kentucky

1979 - M.A., University of Kentucky

1976 - B.A., Centre College

Seminars

- Regularly speaks on employment issues at bar association meetings and CLE seminars, as well as at training seminars for managers, supervisors and the workforce, and to civic groups
- Provides workplace training for managers and employees

Publications

- Contributing author, The Kentucky Employer's Guide to Hiring and Firing, published in 1999 by the Kentucky Chamber of Commerce and recently reprinted
- Author of the Kentucky Chamber of Commerce's booklet on preventing workplace violence
- Organizing editor and a contributor to the Kentucky Chamber of Commerce's recent guideline to Unemployment Compensation in Kentucky
- University of Arkansas Law Review, Fall 2004, Public School Reform: Kentucky's Solution
- Numerous articles and columns on employment topics

Professional Activities and Memberships

- Fayette County and Kentucky Bar Associations
- University of Kentucky College of Law's mentor program for women law students and other minority law students

Admissions

- Kentucky State Bar
- U.S. District Court, Eastern and Western Districts of Kentucky
- U.S. Court of Appeals, Sixth Circuit
- U.S. Supreme Court

Interests

- Travel, reading, horseback riding