

CHRISTOPHER C. JOHNSON

Partner / Tampa

cjohnson@fordharrison.com / P: 813-261-7857



Chris Johnson defends both local and national employers in litigation and administrative proceedings against all claims arising from the employment relationship.

Chris also focuses a significant portion of his practice on litigation prevention efforts including the review and revision of personnel policies and procedures to ensure compliance with evolving labor and employment laws. He understands where an employer is most vulnerable and works with his clients to eliminate those vulnerabilities. However, when an employee does bring a claim, Chris is prepared to defend the procedures and policies that he works to create with his clients, as he has extensive experience litigating cases in state and federal courts throughout the United States in both single plaintiff matters as well as class and collective actions. Chris also assists clients with drafting and enforcing restrictive covenants, including non-competition, non-solicitation, and confidentiality provisions.

Prior to joining FordHarrison, Chris was a partner at a labor and employment boutique firm in Tampa. While earning his J.D. from the University of Florida, Chris completed a judicial externship for the Honorable Don F. Briggs and the Honorable T. Michael Johnson in the Fifth Judicial Circuit of Florida.

Representative Experience

- » Obtained summary judgment in a disability discrimination case for a national restaurant chain.
- » Obtained dismissal of race, gender, and retaliation claims on behalf of a national clothing store.
- » Served as second chair in representation of a housing authority against a former employee's union grievance. Obtained full defense verdict in arbitration of the claims.
- » Served as co-counsel successfully defeating conditional certification of a nationwide overtime claim on behalf of a national restaurant chain.

EDUCATION

- » University of Florida College of Law (J.D., *cum laude*, 2013)
- » University of Florida (B.S.B.A., 2010)

BAR ADMISSIONS

- » Florida

COURT ADMISSIONS

- » U.S. Court of Appeals for the Eleventh Circuit
- » U.S. District Court for the Middle District of Florida
- » U.S. District Court for the Southern District of Florida
- » U.S. District Court for the Northern District of Florida
- » All Florida State Courts

- » Obtained summary judgment for a national Professional Employer Organization ("PEO") against claims of disability discrimination and FMLA retaliation.
- » *Per Florida Bar rules, information on litigation and other legal successes has not been disclosed but is available upon request.*

Honors & Awards

- » "Ones to Watch," *Best Lawyers in America*, 2022 - 2023
- » "Florida Rising Stars," *Super Lawyers* magazine, 2019 - 2023

Memberships

- » Chair, Solo & Small Firm Section, The Florida Bar, 2022-2023
- » Co-Chair, Long-Range Planning Committee, Hillsborough County Bar Association YLD, 2017-2018
- » Member, Law-Related Education & Law Week Committee, Hillsborough County Bar Association YLD, 2016-present
- » Member, Wedges for Wishes Committee, Make-A-Wish of Southern Florida, 2016-present
- » Professional Partner, Moffitt Cancer Center, 2015-present
- » Member, Federal Bar Association - Tampa Bay Chapter

News & Insights

- » September 01, 2023 - DOL's New Proposed Overtime Rule Would Drastically Increase the Salary Threshold for the White Collar Overtime Exemption
- » June 26, 2023 - Sixteen Florida-Based FordHarrison Attorneys Listed as 2023 Super Lawyers and Rising Stars
- » May 25, 2023 - Sixth Circuit Rejects the Traditional Two-Step Conditional Certification Process in FLSA Collective Actions
- » Winter 2019 - Author, "Trouble from Day 1 - Ensuring Your Employees are Eligible to Work," Florida Restaurant & Lodging Magazine

Events

- » February 16, 2023 - "2023 Annual Labor & Employment Law Checkup," ACC Tampa Bay Seminar - Tampa, FL

Offices

- » *Tampa:*

401 East Jackson Street, Suite 2500
Tampa, Florida 33602