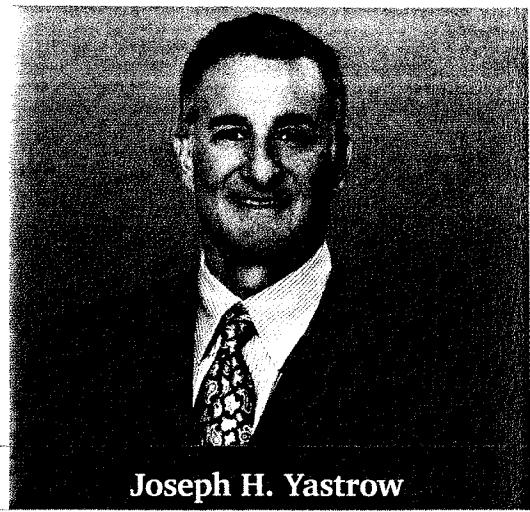


Best Lawyers® has named

2016 LAWYER OF THE YEAR

recipients in Illinois based on their particularly high level of peer recognition.

CHICAGO ■ SPRINGFIELD ■ ST. LOUIS AREA



Joseph H. Yastrow

Labor and Employment Law – Management Chicago

Joe Yastrow, the president and most senior executive committee member of nationally recognized labor and employment law firm Laner Muchin, grew up in the northern suburbs of Chicago, and his father was the third generation running the family apparel business. "My father believed that the future of that industry in the United States was not very bright, so my siblings and I were encouraged to stay away from it," he says. One brother became an anesthesiologist, another became a Eurodollar trader, his sister became an educator and earned her master's in education, and Joe Yastrow—partly inspired by his uncle who was a successful general counsel and worked for 22 years in that capacity for the McDonald's corporation—became a lawyer.

Yastrow has been in practice since 1978, works as hard as ever, and does not take his senior role at Laner Muchin lightly. "My firm expects me to have as much on my plate as is on anyone else's," he says. "I have more latitude in selecting what I do and don't do, and my decisions are driven by my interest in my clients' needs."

Yastrow is less specialized, or, as he puts it, "less niche," than others tend to be in the field of labor and employment law. He is a certified mediator through the DePaul College of Law Center for Dispute Resolution, and a significant portion of his practice involves negotiation, mediation, and arbitration.

"Since a hugely disproportionate percentage of cases we get involved in are settled in some way, the ability to settle a case on favorable terms is much more a function of strong communication skills and understanding other people's perspectives than just being very knowledgeable about the law," says Yastrow. He adds: "I think that what separates some of the better lawyers from others is their responsiveness and accessibility—they are not only effective at solving problems, but are accessible when the problems go down. The field is increasingly populated by legions of brilliant people who write beautifully and speak beautifully—who are brilliant—but none of that does any good if they're not there when you need them."

Rather than make himself the brightly shining center of attention, Yastrow's strategy is to focus on winning by building and maintaining relationships, being reliable, and working hard—all time-honored values that he has held to and that have rewarded him—and his clients—with a lot of success. ■

SPONSORED CONTENT

ADMINISTRATIVE / REGULATORY LAW Christian F. Binnig	EQUIPMENT FINANCE LAW James E. Clark	LITIGATION AND CONTROVERSY - TAX Todd F. Maynes
ADMIRALTY AND MARITIME LAW Robert Reeb	FAMILY LAW Larry R. Kane	MASS TORT LITIGATION / CLASS ACTIONS - DEFENDANTS Gordon R. Broom Robert H. Riley
ADVERTISING LAW Jeffrey H. Brown	FRANCHISE LAW Michael G. Brennan	MASS TORT LITIGATION / CLASS ACTIONS - PLAINTIFFS Robert A. Clifford
ANTITRUST LAW Roxane C. Busey	GAMING LAW J. William Roberts	MEDIATION Caryn L. Jacobs
APPELLATE PRACTICE Stephen R. Swofford	GOVERNMENT RELATIONS PRACTICE Samuel K. Skinner	MEDICAL MALPRACTICE LAW - DEFENDANTS Rudolf G. Schade, Jr.
ARBITRATION John M. Touhy	HEALTH CARE LAW Monte I. Dube	MEDICAL MALPRACTICE LAW - PLAINTIFFS William A. Cirigliani
BANKING AND FINANCE LAW Marc P. Franson	IMMIGRATION LAW Derek Strain	MERGERS AND ACQUISITIONS LAW Edward J. Schneidman
BANKRUPTCY AND CREDITOR DEBTOR RIGHTS / INSOLVENCY AND REORGANIZATION LAW David S. Heller	INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY LAW Gregg Kirchhoefer	NON-PROFIT / CHARITIES LAW Janice E. Rodgers
BET-THE-COMPANY LITIGATION Charles B. Sklarsky	INSURANCE LAW Nick J. DiGiovanni	PATENT LAW Russell E. Levine
BIOTECHNOLOGY LAW Alice O. Martin	LABOR LAW - MANAGEMENT Roger T. Brice	PERSONAL INJURY LITIGATION - PLAINTIFFS Larry R. Rogers, Sr.
COLLABORATIVE LAW: FAMILY LAW Brittgitte Schmidt Bell	LABOR LAW - UNION Michael H. Slutsky	PRIVATE FUNDS / HEDGE FUNDS LAW Bruce I. Ettelson
COMMUNICATIONS LAW John J. Hamill	LAND USE AND ZONING LAW Ivan P. Kane	PRODUCT LIABILITY LITIGATION - DEFENDANTS Dale G. Wills
CONSTRUCTION LAW Randolph E. Ruff	LEGAL MALPRACTICE LAW - DEFENDANTS George W. Spellmire, Jr.	PRODUCT LIABILITY LITIGATION - PLAINTIFFS Bruce R. Pfaff
COPYRIGHT LAW William H. Frankel	LEVERAGED BUYOUTS AND PRIVATE EQUITY LAW Chris Abbinante	PROFESSIONAL MALPRACTICE LAW - DEFENDANTS Kevin M. O'Hagan
CORPORATE COMPLIANCE LAW Imad I. Qasim	LITIGATION - ANTITRUST James H. Mutchnik	PUBLIC FINANCE LAW James M. Snyder
CORPORATE GOVERNANCE LAW Frederick B. Thomas	LITIGATION - BANKRUPTCY Michael B. Solow	REAL ESTATE LAW Stephen B. Bell
CRIMINAL DEFENSE: WHITE-COLLAR J. William Lucco David S. Rosenbloom	LITIGATION - CONSTRUCTION Jennifer A. Nielsen	SECURITIES / CAPITAL MARKETS LAW Bruce A. Toth
EMPLOYEE BENEFITS (ERISA) LAW Maura Ann McBreen	LITIGATION - ENVIRONMENTAL Timothy S. Bishop	SECURITIES REGULATION Mark D. Wood
EMPLOYMENT LAW - MANAGEMENT Joseph H. Yastrow	LITIGATION - ERISA Nancy G. Ross	SECURITIZATION AND STRUCTURED FINANCE LAW Mary C. Fontaine
ENERGY LAW Peter D. Clarke	LITIGATION - INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY David L. Witcoff	TAX LAW Lowell D. Yoder
ENTERTAINMENT LAW - MOTION PICTURES AND TELEVISION David M. Saltiel	LITIGATION - LABOR AND EMPLOYMENT Max G. Brittain, Jr.	TECHNOLOGY LAW Marcelo Halpern
ENTERTAINMENT LAW - MUSIC Peter J. Strand	LITIGATION - PATENT Michael O. Warnecke	TRADEMARK LAW Mark I. Feldman
ENVIRONMENTAL LAW Robert M. Olian	LITIGATION - SECURITIES Mark Filip	
	LITIGATION - TRUSTS AND ESTATES David R. Hodgman	