



**Christopher M. Bentley**

Partner

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**Education**

- J.D., University of Florida, 2007
- B.A., *cum laude*, Stetson University, 2004

**Bar Admissions**

- Florida
- U.S. Court of Appeals, Eleventh Circuit
- U.S. District Court, Middle District of Florida
- U.S. District Court, Northern District of Florida
- U. S. District Court, Southern District of Florida

**Biography**

Christopher M. Bentley is a Partner. He has represented employers for the last fourteen years. Chris counsels both public and private-sector employers across the country in all matters relating to employment law and labor relations. He has handled a wide range of litigation matters in federal and state court, and has defended employers in a variety of matters including discrimination, sexual harassment, wrongful termination, breach of contract, wage and hour, retaliation, and state law torts. Chris enjoys counseling clients to solve tough issues and vigorously defends them when necessary. Chris received his undergraduate degree from Stetson University and his law degree from the University of Florida Levin College of Law. He has been recognized as one of Florida's "Legal Elite Up and Coming" by *Florida Trend*, and as a *Super Lawyers Rising Star*. He serves as a Member for the Labor and Employment Wage and Hour Administration Committee, the Labor and Employment Law NLRB and PERC Liaison Committee, and the Labor and Employment Law Special Projects Committee of the Florida Bar. Chris also serves as the Chairman of the Board for the South Tampa Chamber of Commerce, and sits as an Advisory Board Member for the First Tee of Tampa Bay. Chris was born in Louisville, Kentucky.

**Honors and Awards**

- Florida Trend Legal Elite, Up and Coming, 2014 – Present
- Super Lawyers Rising Star 2016, 2017
- HCSB Leadership Institute Class 2016

**Voluntary Bar Memberships**

- Hillsborough County Bar Association
- Ferguson-White Inn of Court
- Federal Bar Association

### Professional and Community Involvement

- Member, Labor and Employment Law NLRB and PERC Liaison Committee, The Florida Bar, 2017-present
- Member, Labor and Employment Law Wage and Hour Administration Committee, The Florida Bar, 2017-present
- Member, Labor and Employment Law Special Projects Committee, The Florida Bar, 2017-present
- Chairman of the Board for the South Tampa Chamber of Commerce.
- Advisory Board Member, The First Tee of Tampa Bay, 2014-present
- Volunteer for the Special Olympics

### Publications and Speeches

- Co-presenter, Avoiding the Harassment Spotlight: Practical Solutions for Eliminating Harassment from the Hospitality-Industry Workplaces, *Florida Restaurant & Lodging Association Webinar Series*, March 2018
- Presenter, Effectively Litigating Employment Law Cases from Inception through End, *Labor & Employment Law Section*, August 2017
- Co-presenter, Ten Things I Wish I'd Known Before I Got Sued, *Florida Restaurant & Lodging Association's Marketing Summit*, August 2017
- Presenter, Work Place Privacy Issues, *Labor & Employment Law Section Certification Exam Review Course*, January 2017
- Presenter, Grievance Handling & Arbitration Simulation, *Florida Public Employer Labor Relations Association*, October 2016-2017
- Presenter, Discrimination Law Update, *City, County & Local Government Section*, The Florida Bar, 2015