

Deborah M. Lerner

Retired Partner

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Deborah Lerner has more than 30 years of experience in employee benefits law. She counsels and represents numerous public and private-sector single and multiemployer funds on a broad range of benefit issues, including tax issues in employee benefits law. She additionally advises individuals regarding employment, pension and benefit issues.

Deborah also serves as an adjunct professor at Temple University Beasley School of Law, where she teaches courses in the school's graduate program. She is a member of the editorial board of the *Journal of Taxation of Exempt Organizations*. Deborah has presented for groups such as the American Bar Association, the Conference of Consulting Actuaries, the Pennsylvania Bar Institute and the International Foundation of Employee Benefit Plans.

WHAT INSPIRES ME ABOUT MY WORK

“As a lawyer who represents fiduciaries of pension and profit sharing plans, I spend time ensuring that they understand their duties, the primary one of which is to act in the best interests of the plan participants and beneficiaries. By performing my job, I am able to assist my clients as well as the workers in the plans for whom retirement benefits will be essential. I especially love to help clients get what they’re entitled to.”

AWAY FROM WORK

““I love teaching and have enjoyed being able to work pro bono for those who otherwise might not have gotten help.”



Practice Areas

- Employee Benefits

Education

- Villanova University (L.L.M. Graduate Tax Program , 1986)
- Villanova University School of Law (J.D. , 1977)
- Bryn Mawr College (B.A. *cum laude*, 1973)

Honors and Awards

- *The Best Lawyers in America*®, 2006 – present
- Best Lawyers' Lawyer of the Year in Philadelphia in Employee Benefits (ERISA) law, 2022
- Fellow, American College of Employee Benefits Counsel, 2007 – present
- Pennsylvania Super Lawyers (Thomson Reuters), 2004 –2016, 2018 – present
- Top Rated Lawyer, *American Lawyer Media and Martindale-Hubbell*™, 2013

Associations

Professional

- Adjunct Professor of Law, Temple University, Beasley School of Law, 1999 to 2016
- Member, Board of Advisors of Taxation of Exempts
- American Bar Association, 1977 to Present; Member, Labor Law and Employment Section; Member, Employee Benefits Committee; Co-Chair, Employee Benefits Committee, 2001 – Present
- International Foundation of Employee Benefit Plans, 1994 to Present