



C. Akin Blitz

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Practice Area

State and Federal Regulation of Employment
Collective Bargaining
Public Sector Labor Law
Employment Advice and Litigation Risk Management
Personnel Policies and Practices
Police Misconduct and Civil Liability
Municipal Law

Bar Admission

Oregon, 1975
Washington, 2003

Education

LL.M. (Labor and Employment Law),
Georgetown University Law Center, 1979
J.D., Northwestern School of Law, Lewis & Clark, 1975
B.A., Willamette University, 1972

A shareholder with Bullard Law, Akin Blitz has practiced labor and employment law for more than thirty years. He counsels both private and public employers in the Pacific Northwest, handling labor relations and providing employment advice to a number of the firm's longtime clients.

Among public sector leaders, Akin Blitz is considered one of the region's top labor lawyers. He represents cities, counties, and special districts throughout Oregon and Washington in all labor and employment matters, including related municipal law issues. Akin's practice emphasizes bargaining, labor contract administration, employee relations, discipline and discharge, practice before state and federal agencies, preventive law/risk management, and policy review and implementation. He works with associations and risk pools, and provides pre-loss legal services and defense. He also serves as legal advisor to several police agencies, fire departments, and associations of public safety executives.

Akin has helped employers improve operations and avoid legal missteps by presenting seminars on numerous employment-related topics. He leads in-house training sessions for clients, speaks to statewide associations, and lectures at the Oregon State Sheriffs' Command College.

Clients are quick to praise Akin's work ethic, loyalty, and "24/7" availability. Fellow lawyers have recognized his effectiveness and dedication to clients, as well. Based on attorney polling, Akin has been selected repeatedly for inclusion in *Oregon Super Lawyers*, an honor limited to the top five percent of attorneys in the state. In a feature story about Akin in the 2008 edition of

Oregon Super Lawyers, firm founder Garry Bullard described, "Akin is a client's lawyer, as opposed to a lawyer's lawyer. He's interested in solving clients' problems and keeping them out of trouble, rather than making a test case out of it and grandstanding. He's outgoing, gregarious - a bulldog kind of guy."

Before joining Bullard Law in 1998, Akin practiced in the private and public arenas. He was a partner in the employment law group at Portland-based Lane Powell PC, where, for several years, he acted as county counsel for Columbia County, Oregon. Akin gained invaluable insight as to the inner workings of state agencies during his time as assistant attorney general in the Oregon Department of Justice Labor Relations Section. Akin also served as a Marine Corps lawyer in Washington, D.C. at Headquarters Marine Corps and in the Office of the Judge Advocate General, U.S. Navy. He later commanded a Marine Corps Reserve unit while starting in private law practice in Eugene, Oregon.

Akin distinguished himself at Lewis & Clark Law School as a legal writing honors student, legal research and writing teaching assistant, moot court board member, and awards recipient for best overall advocacy and best written brief. He earned his master's degree in labor and employment law from Georgetown University. Prior to obtaining his law degrees, Akin worked as a police officer and in the Oregon Legislative Assembly during the sessions that coincided with his years at Willamette University in Salem, Oregon. Drawing on his background in legislative politics, Akin has lobbied successfully for clients on various employment and law enforcement issues.

In his free time, Akin enjoys cycling and alpine downhill skiing. He has volunteered as a high school ski race official and as Vice President and Chairman of Risk Management for the Boy Scouts Cascade Pacific Council. Akin is proud to serve on the board of trustees for the Oregon Humane Society. With his late bearded collie, Annie, he provided therapy and support to medically fragile children at various hospitals and to victims and witnesses of violence in connection with several law enforcement agencies. Their teamwork led to Annie's induction into the Oregon Veterinary Medical Association Hall of Fame.