

PARTNER

James E. O'Connell, Jr.

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KEY SERVICES

Litigation
Arbitration and Mediation
Business Litigation
Real Estate Litigation
Domestic Relations
Employment

EDUCATION

Boston College, BA in English and Political Science, with honors, 1971
Northeastern University School of Law, JD, 1980

ADMISSIONS

Massachusetts Supreme Judicial Court
United States District Court of the District of Massachusetts
United States Court of Appeals, First Circuit
United States Supreme Court.
In addition to the Courts of the Commonwealth, Jim has trial experience in the federal courts of New York, Michigan, Virginia and Georgia.

MEMBERSHIPS

Overview

Jim is a partner in the Firm's Litigation Department. Jim is recognized as one of Massachusetts' top litigators and a trusted legal advocate for both individual and corporate clients. He has more than 35 years' experience in employment, business, probate and family law matters and construction disputes, successfully representing executives and businesses in multi-million dollar litigation, arbitration and alternative dispute resolution.

Prior to joining Posternak, Jim was a founding partner of Shilepsky O'Connell, a Boston employment and litigation boutique, and a litigation partner in the trial department at Perkins, Smith & Cohen. He was also co-founder and partner of two firms concentrating in civil litigation: Murphy & O'Connell and Sally, O'Connell & Fitch. He began his professional career in the litigation department of Bingham McCutchen, LLP.

Experience

- Represented minority shareholder in freeze-out litigation resulting in groundbreaking, multi-million dollar jury verdict.
- Represented high net worth individuals in complex divorce and post-divorce matters.
- Represented an international employer in a whistleblower retaliation case in federal court, resulting in the pre-trial dismissal of three of four counts and a jury verdict for the employer.
- Represented an international employer in a breach of contract case in state court, resulting in a jury verdict for the employer.
- Represented employees and employers in disputes regarding enforcement of non-competition provisions and other restrictive covenants.
- Represented numerous high-level executives in discrimination and other disputes, resulting in multi-million dollar settlements.

American Bar Association
Massachusetts Bar Association
Boston Bar Association

- Represented the husband in a successful appeal to the Massachusetts Appeals Court, resulting in the Appeals Court's issuance of new law regarding the treatment of Social Security benefits in the context of divorce.

Recognitions

- Massachusetts Super Lawyer every year from 2004 – 2018

Outside Posternak

- Trustee for a substantial New Jersey charitable remainder trust and serves
- Co-Trustee for the family-and-friends trust of a successful workplace "whistleblower."
- Volunteer on the Arlington 2020 Business Committee
- Jim sails well and golfs poorly