

JOHN J. WEATHERS

Springfield, Illinois • 303.919.6969 • john@weathersadr.com

LABOR & EMPLOYEE RELATIONS | ALTERNATIVE DISPUTE RESOLUTION

ARBITRATION | MEDIATION | FACILITATION | INSTRUCTION

Highly accomplished practitioner with over two decades of experience in labor and employee relations, as a legal advocate for employer and labor union clients negotiating collective bargaining agreements, administering contracts, and resolving disputes and litigation; and also as a third-party neutral providing mediation, facilitation, and process-design services. Known for leveraging an advanced legal and ethical proficiency, strategic negotiation skills, a strong commitment to neutrality and impartiality, and a keen eye for productive processes and practices to successfully navigate complex issues and relationships, to empower and guide parties to agreements and resolution, and to instruct and train diverse groups in contract administration, negotiations, interest-based processes, and conflict resolution.

- ❖ Noted for repeated success in *negotiating* to completion over seventy (70) collective bargaining agreements as a legal advocate for a public sector employer with tens of thousands of employees and as legal counsel on behalf of a major public sector labor union representing more than ten thousand bargaining unit employees
- ❖ Proven track record of effectively representing employer and labor union clients by *arbitrating* more than seventy-five (75+) cases and reaching favorable settlement agreements in hundreds of other matters prior to hearing
- ❖ Recognized for extensive experience *mediating* hundreds of collective bargaining agreements, grievances, and workplace disputes across a variety of industries in the private, public, and federal sectors
- ❖ Demonstrated achievement in designing and *facilitating* processes in high-impact, multi-party public policy and negotiated rulemaking matters for governments, agencies, and a variety of stakeholders

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

WEATHERS ADR

Current

Springfield, Illinois

Arbitrator / Mediator

- ❖ Provides comprehensive and contemporary alternative dispute resolutions services, including virtual and in-person arbitration, interest-arbitration, fact-finding, mediation, facilitation, process-design, instruction, and presentation
- ❖ *Arbitration Panels/Rosters*
 - ❖ Federal Mediation and Conciliation Service (FMCS)
 - ❖ Cook County Juvenile Detention Center and AFSCME Council 31
 - ❖ Kankakee County Training Center and AFSCME Council 31
 - ❖ National Mediation Board
 - ❖ Cook County Juvenile Detention Center and Teamsters 700
- ❖ *Issues:* wages, attendance and absenteeism, working hours, assignments, hiring, job posting and bidding, performance, promotion, leave types and usage, health insurance, life insurance, pension, seniority, discipline, off-duty conduct, discharge, discrimination, fitness for duty, grievances, arbitrability, union rights, employee rights, management rights, working conditions, safety, health and welfare, drugs and alcoholism, layoffs, subcontracting, past practice, recognition, duration
- ❖ *Industries/Sectors:* mass transit, healthcare, food-processing, grocery, higher education, bakeries, event and hospitality, utilities, custodial and maintenance, warehousing, operators, manufacturing, law enforcement, fire, ammunition,

correctional, juvenile detention, security, K-12 education, higher education, clerical, dispatching, military, agriculture, road maintenance, local and county government, state government, federal government (HUD, EPA, USPS, DOD, FAA, ED, SSA, DOE, FLRA, NIST, VA, USDA)

UNIVERSITY OF ARIZONA

Current

Tucson, Arizona

Adjunct Professor

- ❖ Instructs virtual courses on advanced negotiations and interviewing/counseling for both Master's and JD program students, engaging students through critical and strategic thinking and problem-solving where negotiation techniques meet strategic finesse
- ❖ Mentors and enhances students' abilities to understand theoretical frameworks, participate in mock negotiations and simulations, and better recognize and employ their personal negotiation style
- ❖ Establishes a dynamic learning environment to drive measurable improvement in students' negotiation skills

FEDERAL MEDIATION AND CONCILIATION SERVICE

2016 – 2024

Springfield, Illinois & Denver, Colorado

Commissioner

- ❖ Provided high-quality and current mediation services for employer and labor clients, across sectors, industries, and geographical regions in the negotiation of collective bargaining agreements and the settlement of grievances, impasses, employment matters, and other types of pending litigation
- ❖ Guided and supported clients in areas of constructive labor and employee relations, organizational and decision-making effectiveness, collaborative problem-solving, , and relationship-development and skills-building
- ❖ Project-managed and facilitated large-scale, high-impact, multi-party public policy and rulemaking negotiation processes:
 - Conducted an assessment, designed a governance structure, and facilitated a high-profile project with the Federal Aviation Administration to analyze and review the national civilian aircraft noise policy for the first time in over 40 years
 - Organized and facilitated multiple negotiated rulemakings for the Department of Education and committees of external stakeholders for Program Integrity and Institutional Quality and Student Loan Debt Relief
 - Developed and led collaborative dialogues for the National Institute of Standards and Technology on agency-wide policies for return to work and telework

ILLINOIS FRATERNAL ORDER OF POLICE LABOR COUNCIL

2010 – 2016

Springfield, Illinois

Labor Counsel

- ❖ Represented safety and law enforcement employees across Illinois, negotiated collective bargaining agreements, administered contracts, filed grievances, and advocated at arbitration and interest-arbitration
- ❖ Offered 24/7 on-call legal support in instances of critical safety and law enforcement incidents with immediate legal consultation, guidance on procedures, and instruction on appropriate response and statements
- ❖ Conducted in-depth evaluation of proposed state legislation and offered testimony to legislative committees to address potential implications for safety and law enforcement employees

ILLINOIS DEPARTMENT OF CENTRAL MANAGEMENT SERVICES

2006 – 2010

Springfield, Illinois

Labor Counsel

- ❖ Represented State of Illinois agencies and departments, negotiated collective bargaining agreements, administered labor contracts, defended grievances, and advocated at arbitration and before the Illinois Labor Board
- ❖ Reviewed and analyzed labor-related legislation to effectively address employer and worker rights
- ❖ Performed comprehensive evaluation of all State of Illinois bargaining agreements, and relevant dispute precedents, to ensure fair practice and procedural integrity regarding employee discipline and discharge

OFFICE OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL

2004 – 2006

Springfield, Illinois

Assistant Attorney General

- ❖ Appeared on behalf of the state of Illinois in both federal and state courts for constitutional law actions, predominantly regarding electoral law and prisoner litigation; managed all aspects of legal defense proceedings including discovery, depositions, and briefings
- ❖ Managed state-level legal proceedings in pursuit of mandamus orders and filings for writs of certiorari
- ❖ Successfully prosecuted seven federal civil rights cases to jury verdicts

SPEAKING ENGAGEMENTS

- ❖ Creighton College of Law (Mock Mediation 2023)
- ❖ Kent College of Law Public Sector Conference (Panel Discussion 2020, 2021, 2022)
- ❖ Fraternal Order of Police National Conference (Presenter 2019)
- ❖ LiUNA Midwest Regional Bi-Annual Conference (Presenter 2019)
- ❖ NAPO National Conference (Instructor 2019)
- ❖ FOP Legal Seminar (Presenter 2019)
- ❖ FMCS NLMC (Panel Moderator 2018, 2020)
- ❖ Bradley University (Guest Lecturer 2018)
- ❖ Blackburn College (Mock Mediation 2017, 2018, 2019)
- ❖ University of Illinois at Springfield (Guest Lecturer 2015, 2017, 2018, 2019)

EDUCATION & LICENSURE

ILLINOIS STATE BAR

Member (2001)

CHICAGO-KENT COLLEGE OF LAW, ILLINOIS INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY

Juris Doctor (2001)

UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS AT URBANA CHAMPAIGN

Bachelor of Arts in Political Science (Minor in History) (1994)