



## **Christopher J. Merken**

### ***Associate***

Philadelphia/New York

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### ***Service Focus***

- Litigation and Trials
- Employment Discrimination and Harassment
- Employee Defection and Trade Secrets
- Counseling and Advice
- Workplace Investigations

### ***Overview***

An associate in Fisher Phillips' Philadelphia and New York offices, Christopher Merken is an experienced litigator who represents businesses in employment and workplace-related disputes. With deep experience across all stages of litigation, he has counseled and defended companies in high-stakes employment matters in federal and state courts, including claims involving breach of contract, breach of fiduciary duty, misappropriation of trade secrets, and alleged violations of the Fair Labor Standards Act. Christopher has also defended employers and executives in employment-related investigations and litigation brought by the U.S. Department of Labor and the New York Attorney General.

In 2024, Christopher served as trial counsel in the U.S. District Court for the Southern District of New York securing a complete victory in a breach of contract action resulting in a \$108 million judgment. He also served as trial counsel in the Delaware Court of Chancery securing a rare victory in a corporate director dispute.

Beyond litigation, Christopher advises clients navigating internal investigations and government enforcement actions. His experience includes defending a staffing company and its CEO in simultaneous employment litigation and regulatory investigations, conducting internal investigations

of alleged misconduct, and counseling senior employees in federal investigations involving cryptocurrency.

Christopher clerked for the Honorable Jane R. Roth of the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Third Circuit and the Honorable Madeline H. Haikala of the U.S. District Court for the Northern District of Alabama. He also externed for the Honorable Mark A. Kearney of the U.S. District Court for the Eastern District of Pennsylvania. He has published widely on evidence and civil rights issues, with his work cited by the Iowa Supreme Court and considered by the U.S. Advisory Committee on Evidence Rules.

He maintains an active *pro bono* practice, including recent trial and appellate work in a successful constitutional challenge to Miami's City Council maps on behalf of local residents and advocacy groups.

## ***Credentials***

### **Education**

- LL.M., 2022, *with honors*, Temple University, Beasley School of Law
- J.D., 2020, *cum laude*, Villanova University School of Law
- B.A., 2017, *cum laude*, University of Delaware

### **Bar Admissions**

- Pennsylvania
- New York
- District of Columbia

### **Court Admissions**

- U.S. Supreme Court
- U.S. Court of Appeals for the First Circuit
- U.S. Court of Appeals for the Second Circuit
- U.S. Court of Appeals for the Third Circuit
- U.S. Court of Appeals for the Fourth Circuit
- U.S. Court of Appeals for the Fifth Circuit
- U.S. Court of Appeals for the Sixth Circuit
- U.S. Court of Appeals for the Seventh Circuit
- U.S. Court of Appeals for the Eighth Circuit
- U.S. Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit

- U.S. Court of Appeals for the Tenth Circuit
- U.S. Court of Appeals for the Eleventh Circuit
- U.S. Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia Circuit
- U.S. District Court for the Eastern District of Pennsylvania
- U.S. District Court for the Middle District of Pennsylvania
- U.S. District Court for the Western District of Pennsylvania
- U.S. District Court for the District of Columbia
- U.S. District Court for the Southern District of New York
- U.S. District Court for the Eastern District of New York

### ***Affiliations***

#### **Professional Activities**

- Villanova Law J. Willard O'Brien American Inn of Court (Associate)