



# Brian R. Mertes

## Partner

[bmertes@bmsa.com](mailto:bmertes@bmsa.com)

## Practice Groups

Workers' Compensation  
Coordinator  
Labor & Employment  
Business

## Areas of Emphasis

Labor & Employment  
EEO Administrative Proceedings  
Handbooks & Personnel Policies  
General Human Resources Counseling  
Employment, Non-compete and Non-disclosure Agreements  
Wrongful Discharge Defense  
Workers' Compensation Defense  
General Corporate Matters

## Admissions

Ohio Bar, 1995  
U.S. District Court, Northern District of Ohio, 1997

## Education

J.D., The University of Akron School of Law  
B.S., Business Administration, University of Dayton

## Certification

Bar Association Specialist in Ohio Workers' Compensation Law

CANTON  
330.456.8341

NEW PHILADELPHIA  
330.364.6553

TOLEDO  
419.897.7962

BMSA.COM

**Brian**, a partner with Black McCuskey since 2004, focuses his practice in Labor and Employment and General Corporate matters. He is the coordinator of the firm's workers' compensation practice group. He is a past member of the Firm's Management Committee and serves as Chairman of the Firm's Recruiting Committee. Brian received his undergraduate degree from the University of Dayton and his law degree from the University of Akron School of Law. He is licensed to appear before the state and federal courts in Ohio. Brian is certified as a workers' compensation specialist by the Ohio State Bar Association. In addition, he has been recognized as an *Ohio Super Lawyer* in 2017 and 2018.

Brian advises and represents small, medium and large businesses concerning all aspects of their labor and employment needs, including: collective bargaining, contract negotiation and review; union avoidance; defense of workers compensation, safety violation and wrongful discharge claims; drafting and enforcement of employment, confidentiality and non-disclosure agreements; and, general human resources counseling and training.

Brian also serves as general counsel to many entrepreneurs, established businesses and non-profit organizations. To these corporate clients, Brian is a trusted counselor and advises these clients on all aspects of the organization, management and operation of their businesses.

Active in the community, Brian frequently lectures and writes articles regarding current developments in employment law. He is a member of the Ohio State and Stark County Bar Associations, Jackson Township Chamber of Commerce, and serves on the boards of Mercy Hospital and the Friends of Stark Parks.

Brian resides in Jackson Township with his wife, Julie, and their daughters. They are parishioners of St. Michael Church.