

## BIOGRAPHY



### Donald P. Lawless

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Donald P. Lawless is a member of Barnes & Thornburg's Labor and Employment Law Department in its Grand Rapids, Michigan office. He has more than 20 years of experience in labor and employment law and working with college and university clients.

Mr. Lawless focuses his practice in a variety of areas, including labor contract negotiation and administration and strategic union avoidance. He counsels higher education institutions on various labor, employment and student related issues. Mr. Lawless also has experience in affirmative action program development and OFCCP compliance reviews and occupational safety and health.

Mr. Lawless is a frequent speaker on a variety of labor and employment-related topics, including the anticipated Employee Free Choice Act, Family Medical Leave Act, Americans with Disabilities Act, barrier free design laws and OSHA-related issues.

Mr. Lawless currently serves as board chair of The Rapid, the Grand Rapids area transportation partnership, with federal approval and funds to bring a \$40 million Bus Rapid Transit System to the metro area. In addition, Mr. Lawless worked with community leaders to establish and lead West Michigan Works, an employer association in Holland-Zeeland, Mich., focused on employment growth and opportunity. He served as president of West Michigan Works from 2002-2004, and has been a member of the organization's executive committee since 2002. Mr. Lawless served as second ward commissioner for the City of East Grand Rapids from 1997-2005; he currently serves on its Planning Commission.

Mr. Lawless received his B.A. *cum laude* in business administration from the University of Michigan in 1980. In 1986, he received his J.D. from the University of Texas at Austin School of Law. He is listed in *Best Lawyers in America* for 2008.

Mr. Lawless is a member of the American Employment Law Council, the National Association of College and University Attorneys and its Legal Education Committee, the American Bar Association Labor Section's Occupational Safety and Health Subcommittee, and the West Michigan Industrial Hygiene Society. He is admitted to practice in the state of Michigan and the U.S. District Court for the Western District of Michigan.