Proskauer



Contact

Atoyia S. Harris

Senior Counsel

New Orleans +1.504.310.2027

aharris@proskauer.com

Atoyia Harris is Senior Counsel in Proskauer's Labor and Employment Law Department, Co-Chair of the Black Lawyer Affinity Group, and a member of the Women's Alliance Steering Committee. She represents employers across the United States in all aspects of employment law, including litigation, counseling, compliance, and workplace investigations.

With over a decade of experience, Atoyia provides strategic guidance to help clients manage workplace crises and achieve favorable outcomes in complex, high-stakes disputes. She has successfully defended employers in cases across jurisdictions and forums at both the trial and appellate levels. Recognized by Chambers USA as an "Up and Coming" lawyer, The Legal 500, and other prominent organizations for her nationwide employment law expertise, Atoyia is a respected leader in the profession.

Leveraging her litigation background, she also advises clients on risk mitigation, helping to prevent issues before they escalate. Atoyia regularly conducts investigations and trainings on discrimination, harassment, retaliation, and other employment-related matters, and counsels employers on employment and separation agreements, reductions-in-force, WARN Act compliance, workplace policies, and DEI initiatives.

An active leader in the legal community, Atoyia serves as Chair of the Employment Law Committee for the International Association of Defense Counsel, Chair of the Young Lawyers Board for the Federal Bar Association's New Orleans Chapter, and Chair of the Diversity and Inclusion Committee for the Defense Research Institute (DRI). She has also served as President of the Vernon Crawford Bay Area Bar Association and on the Executive Board of the Greater New Orleans Louis A. Martinet Society.

Atoyia earned her J.D. with an International Law Certification from Loyola University New Orleans College of Law, where she served on the Moot Court Board and the Loyola Law and Technology Journal. She also clerked for the Honorable Jay C. Zainey of the U.S. District Court for the Eastern District of Louisiana and the Honorable Robin Giarrusso of the Orleans Parish Civil District Court. She was a member of the award-winning Robert F. Wagner Labor and Employment Moot Court Team.

Before law school, Atoyia received her Bachelor of Music in Industry Studies (classical piano emphasis) from Loyola University New Orleans, where she was also a member of the women's basketball team.

Practices

Discrimination, Harassment & Title VII, Workplace Investigations, Labor & Employment

Education

Loyola University New Orleans, J.D.
Member, *Loyola Law and Technology Journal*
Moot Court Selection Chair
Loyola University New Orleans, B.A.
magna cum laude

Admissions & Qualifications

Louisiana
Alabama

Clerkships

Orleans Parish Civil District Court - Hon. Robin M. Giarrusso

U.S. Eastern District of Louisiana - Hon. Jay C. Zainey

Court Admissions

U.S. Court of Appeals, Eleventh Circuit

U.S. Court of Appeals, Fifth Circuit

U.S. District Court, Alabama, Middle District

U.S. District Court, Alabama, Southern District

U.S. District Court, Louisiana, Eastern District

U.S. District Court, Louisiana, Middle District

U.S. District Court, Louisiana, Western District

Memberships

Defense Research Institute – The Voice of the Defense Bar

American Bar Association

Federal Bar Association

The Greater New Orleans Louis A. Martinet Legal Society

New Orleans Bar Association

Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Incorporated

Saint Thomas More Inns of Court

A.P. Tureaud Inns of Court

Awards & Recognition

MCCA Rising Star 2025

Chambers USA: Louisiana: Labor & Employment: Up & Coming 2025-2026

The Legal 500 United States: Labor & Employment: Workplace and Employment Counseling 2025

Lawyers of Color Hot List 2020 Honoree

Best Lawyers in America: One's to Watch 2021-2025

The Greater New Orleans Louis A. Martinet Legal Society, June 2019 Member of the Month

The National Black Lawyers Association, Top 40 Under 40