



Seth B. Barnett

Associate

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Practice Areas

- Civil Rights
- Employment Law
- General Litigation
- Governmental, Municipal & School Liability
- Workplace Investigations

Education

- Suffolk University Law School, J.D., *cum laude*, 2004
- Boston University School of Management, B.S., 2001

Seth Barnett is an Associate with Pierce Davis & Perritano LLP.

His practice is centered on litigation and trial advocacy in defense of both public sector and private clients in a broad range of complex cases, including land use, civil rights, tort, contract, education, employment, and environmental, before all levels of the Massachusetts trial courts, the United States District Court (Districts of Massachusetts), the Massachusetts Appeals Court, and the United States Court of Appeals for the First Circuit. In addition, Mr. Barnett counsels clients on general municipal law, licensing, land use and permitting. He regularly handles significant civil rights and First Amendment matters on behalf of local municipalities and officials, which are often of public significance. For the past several years, Mr. Barnett has counseled numerous local cities and towns in a wide range of complex issues including disputes as to Native American fishing rights, the operation of wind turbines, public access cable programming decisions, the impact of a residential development on a drinking water supply, and the liability of high school coaches for student-athlete head injuries.

For over a decade, Mr. Barnett has appeared before federal and state courts and administrative agencies with respect to employment discrimination, sexual harassment, wrongful discharge cases, unfair labor practices, wage and hour matters, and other employment related litigation. He also counsels clients regarding matters including hiring and firing decisions, severance agreements, employee handbooks, employee discipline, wage and hour laws, and compliance with state and local statutes, regulations, and case law.

Bar & Court Admissions

- Commonwealth of Massachusetts
- U.S. District Court for the District of Massachusetts
- U.S. Court of Appeals for the First Circuit



Association Memberships

- Massachusetts Bar Association
- Massachusetts City Solicitors and Town Counsel Association

Representative Matters

- *Comley v. Town of Rowley*, 88 Mass. App. Ct. 1109 (2014) (upholding dismissal of various tort and civil rights claims brought by property owner who sought to challenge the Rowley Conservation Commission's issuance of various enforcement orders)
- *Najas Realty, LLC v. Seekonk Water District*, F.3d, 2016 WL 1732730 (1st Cir. 2016) (dismissal of civil rights claims against Water District and District official who spoke in opposition to proposed residential subdivision because of environmental concerns)
- *Jones v. Scotti*, 2010 WL 1711200 (D. Mass. Apr. 26, 2010) (dismissal of civil rights claims against police chief for role in conducting investigation into former police officer's conduct)
- *Surgens v. Attleboro Public Schools*, 27 Mass.L.Rptr. 7 (Mass. Super. 2010) (school entitled to immunity for not dropping off first-grade student, who was struck by on-coming traffic, at her designated bus stop)

Publications and Speaking Engagements

- Massachusetts Municipal Lawyers Association Seminar, "The Risks of Participating in Public Meetings and Hearings," Speaker (August 9, 2018)
- Editor of PDP's *Developments in Municipal Law* newsletter
- Negligent Retention: Does the Imposition of Liability on Employers for Employee Violence Contradict the Public Policy of Providing Ex-felons with Employment Opportunities?, 37 Suffolk U.L. Rev. 1067 (2004)

Awards & Honors

- Selected to Massachusetts *Super Lawyers* "Rising Stars" list, 2013 – 2014