

Speaker Biographies

Taylor Law at 50

May 11, 2018 | 11:15 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.

Concurrent Three:

Strategies for Adapting to a post-*Janus* World

SARAH CUDAHY

Sarah was appointed as the first Executive Director of the Indiana Education Employment Relations Board on June 30, 2016, after serving for four years as general counsel. She is a member of the Executive Board of the Association of Labor Relations Agencies and is a Government Fellow for the American Bar Association's State and Local Government Bargaining and Employment Law Committee. Sarah began her legal career as a judicial law clerk for Justice Theodore Boehm of the Indiana Supreme Court. She then worked in Chicago as a Labor & Employment Associate before moving back home to Indiana. Sarah graduated summa cum laude from Boston University with a B.A. in Education, Public Policy, and European Studies. She earned her law degree from Washington University in St. Louis.

JAMES W. ROEMER, JR.

James W. Roemer, Jr. was born in Albany, New York on September 27, 1944, and attended Albany Public Schools, Guilderland Schools and The Milne School for his primary and secondary education. He attended the University of Buffalo, graduating with a B.A. in Economics in 1966. He received his law degree from Albany Law School in 1969 and joined the firm of DeGraff, Foy, Conway, Holt-Harris & Mealey, then counsel to the Civil Service Employees Association (CSEA). As an associate in that firm, he was provided an office at CSEA Headquarters at 33 Elk Street and worked exclusively on Taylor Law matters and all other public sector labor issues on behalf of CSEA and its members. In 1976, he formed the firm of Roemer and Featherstonhaugh, which served as General Counsel to CSEA. During that period of time, Mr. Roemer served as Chief Counsel to CSEA and was the Chief Negotiator for CSEA in the four major state bargaining units – the Professional Scientific and Technical Services Unit (until the Public Employee Federation began representing this unit), the Administrative Services Unit, the Operational Services Unit, and the Institutional Services Unit. During his tenure as CSEA Chief Counsel, Mr. Roemer was responsible for directing all litigation involving CSEA and, in doing so, he appeared before the New York Court of Appeals on 23 occasions. In 1987, CSEA decided to move from a retained counsel model for its legal services to an in-house model. Mr. Roemer, along with his partners who previously had represented CSEA, established a public sector management labor relations practice beginning with no clients and numbering more than 50 today. In 1995, Mr. Roemer, along with partners Bill Wallens, John Mineaux and Elayne Gold, formed his current firm Roemer Wallens Gold & Mineaux LLP. In his 49th year of New York Public Sector Labor Practice, Mr. Roemer continues almost exclusively in the collective bargaining aspect of his firm's representation and as the firm's Senior Partner, he continues to counsel and mentor his younger partners and associates in all aspects of the representation of their many public employer clients. Mr. Roemer has negotiated more than five hundred collective bargaining agreements on behalf of public sector municipal clients and has very successfully appeared before the Public Employment Relations Board, numerous interest arbitration panels, various State Supreme Courts, the four Appellate Divisions and the Court of Appeals on a variety of public sector labor relations and public retirement system issues. Mr. Roemer is also a noted authority in New York State Retirement System matters and has successfully represented numerous professional individuals (attorneys, doctors and accountants) in their disputes with the Retirement System regarding their status as public employees. He resides in Voorheesville, New York with his wife Elaine and

devotes considerable time to their daughters, Amy and Alison, and their respective families, especially his five grandchildren.

KATE LUSCOMBE

Kate has been an advocate for labor and working people for many years. During her career with CSEA, AFSCME's largest affiliate, she been a Labor Relations Specialist, a Region Director and Executive Assistant to the Statewide President.

Currently, Kate is CSEA's Director of Field Operations. In this role Kate coordinates and develops statewide resources and programs for the field representatives and oversees the education and training initiatives of the organization. She also has the responsibility to ensure that CSEA's retiree, member engagement, member benefits, health benefits and safety and health programs and departments continue to grow and expand as valuable resources available to the CSEA membership.

Kate holds a degree in Industrial and Labor Relations from Cornell University and is a 2007 graduate of the Harvard Trade Union Program.

JOHN F. WIRENIUS

John Wirenius was nominated by the Governor and confirmed by the Senate as the Chairperson of the Public Employment Relations Board ("PERB") in June 2016, after having served as PERB's Deputy Chair and General Counsel for two years. Prior to joining PERB, he was for eight years the Deputy General Counsel for the New York City Office of Collective Bargaining, and earlier in his career represented both management and labor. He has published numerous scholarly articles on topics ranging from the First Amendment to labor law, and two books. He is a 1990 graduate of the Columbia University School of Law, where he was a Harlan Fiske Stone Scholar. He received his undergraduate degree *summa cum laude* from Fordham College in 1987.