



R. Blake Crohan

Senior Associate

+1 404 881 4625 | blake.crohan@alston.com

Atlanta | One Atlantic Center, 1201 West Peachtree Street, Suite 4900 | Atlanta, GA 30309-3424

Related Services

ERISA Litigation ■ Employee Benefits & Executive Compensation ■ Litigation ■ Tax

Clients trust in Blake's practical approach and strategies when navigating substantive issues and disputes that arise from the intricacies of ERISA and related laws.

Blake Crohan is a senior associate on the ERISA Litigation Team. Blake represents employers, plan sponsors, insurers, and fiduciaries in litigation over employee benefits and fiduciary matters including investments, excessive fees, actuarial factors, and benefit terminations. He counsels clients on managing administrative claims and appeals and advises on ERISA fiduciary best practices and litigation avoidance strategies.

Before joining Alston & Bird, Blake worked for a highly respected law firm in Louisiana representing oil and gas companies in a variety of matters. After law school, Blake worked as a federal law clerk to the Hon. Carl J. Barbier in the Eastern District of Louisiana.

Blake earned his J.D., magna cum laude, from the Loyola University New Orleans College of Law, where he was a William L. Crowe, Sr. Scholar, a designation for students graduating in the top 10% of their class. He served as a case note and comment editor for the Loyola Law Review and was a member of the Vis International Commercial Arbitration Moot Court team. Blake earned his B.S. from Tulane University, where he was a member of the baseball team all four years.

Representative Experience

- Representing a Fortune 500 bank in a putative class action alleging the bank's 401(k) plan offered funds with excessive fees and imprudent investments in violation of ERISA.
- Representing a Fortune 500 technology and services company in a putative class action lawsuit alleging excessive recordkeeping fee claim in violation of ERISA.
- Representing one of the leading graphic communications companies in North America in a putative class action lawsuit alleging the company's 401(k) plan offered funds with expensive and imprudent investments and excessive recordkeeping fees in violation of ERISA.
- Representing several companies, including two Fortune 500 companies, in putative class actions alleging ERISA violations and breach of fiduciary duty from the section of certain actuarial equivalence factors used to calculate benefits in defined benefit pension plans.
- Representing a multi-national corporation in a lawsuit related to the denial of benefits and claims of breach of fiduciary duty under ERISA.

- Represented a bottling company of a Fortune 100 beverage manufacturer and distributor in a class action lawsuit alleging breaches of fiduciary duty under ERISA for offering allegedly imprudent and expensive investments in its 401(k) plan and excessive recordkeeping fees.
- Represented a leading global contract research organization in a class action lawsuit alleging breach of fiduciary duty claims related to the company's 401(k) plan for allegedly offering expensive and imprudent investments and paying expensive recordkeeping fees.
- Represented a subsidiary of one of the world's leading automobile manufacturers in multiple lawsuits related to the company's supplemental executive retirement plan (SERP).
- Represented a multi-employer-union pension fund in a two-week arbitration related to the assessment of withdrawal liability against a former contributing employer.

Publications & Presentations

Publications

- "Revenue Sharing Argument Might Save Barrick in 401(k) Case," *Law360*, May 26, 2023.
- "When Employees Didn't Know When Enough Was Enough: The Circuit Split That Created the Decision," *Loyola Law Review*, Vol. 62, No. 2, Summer 2016.

Presentations

- 2023 Tax Meeting, American Bar Association, Washington, D.C., May 3-6, 2023.
- "Employee Benefits Litigation," 2022 ABA May Tax Meeting, Washington, D.C., May 12-13, 2023.

Professional & Community Engagement

- American Bar Association, Tax Section, Employee Benefits Litigation Subcommittee
- Lutzie 43 Next Generation, board member
- Woodstock City Church, volunteer

Education

- Loyola University New Orleans (J.D., 2016)
- Tulane University (B.S., 2013)

Admitted to Practice

- Georgia
- Louisiana