

James R. Myers, Jr., Esq.

Curriculum Vitae

SUMMARY

Licensed attorney with **eleven years** of experience in contract interpretation and employee benefits.

CONTACT INFORMATION

Mailing

Address: QDRO Group
377B Lear Road, #286
Avon Lake, OH 44012
Phone: (844) 721-6500
Email: jmyers@qdrogroup.com

EDUCATION

2010 B.A. Miami University
2014 J.D. University of Toledo, College of Law, *cum laude*
Labor and Employment Law Certificate with Distinction

BAR ADMISSIONS

2014 State of Indiana
2016 State of Ohio

EXPERIENCE AND EXPERTISE

QDRO Group, LLC – Medina, OH
President/Staff Attorney

May 2019-Present

President and Staff Attorney for QDRO Group, a company specializing in the division of retirement assets in divorce. The company works specifically in five areas:

- 1) Preparing actuarial present values for domestic relations cases.
- 2) Tracing the marital and separate property components of retirement accounts
- 3) Drafting Qualified Domestic Relations Orders for attorneys across the country.
- 4) Supporting litigation on dividing retirement benefits in divorce.
- 5) Writing in the field of present values and QDROs.

As a part of my role with QDRO Group, I prepare draft Qualified Domestic Relations Orders (“QDROs”) for domestic relations attorneys; prepare separation agreement language to offer to domestic relations attorneys, including for executive compensation plans; and advise domestic relations attorneys on the proper course of action in dividing a retirement benefit. I further draft consent orders and motions to modify final divorce decrees to correct the language dividing retirement benefits.

Muskovitz & Lemmerbrock, LLC – Cleveland, OH
Associate Attorney

August 2015-May 2019

Represented public sector labor unions before/in trial courts, courts of appeals, mediations, arbitrations, and administrative agencies. Further, represented clients in contract negotiations.

Advocated, both in writing and orally, in dozens of arbitration cases regarding the meaning of contract provisions/terms.

Read treatises, arbitration decisions, and case law regarding contract interpretation.

Reviewed draft contract language to determine all possible interpretations.

Fillenwarth Dennerline Groth and Towe – Indianapolis, IN
Associate Attorney

June 2014-June 2015

Represented private sector labor unions and individual clients before trial courts (both state and federal), courts of appeals, and administrative agencies. Advocated in multiple arbitration cases regarding the meaning of contract provisions/terms.

Worked with employee benefits partner who was counsel to various multi-employer (Taft-Hartley) funds—both retirement and health/welfare funds. Attended fund meetings, reviewed plan documents to ensure compliance, aided plans with PPACA compliance as it was changing at the time, and represented funds in legal proceedings.

PUBLICATION EXPERIENCE

Contributing Author for *Dividing Pensions in Divorce* by David I. Kelley, Gary A Shulman, and Daniel E. Kelley (Wolters Kluwer).

Coauthor of Co-author Chapter 30 “Dividing Private Retirement Benefits in Divorce,” *Domestic Relations Law (Baldwin’s Ohio Practice)*, updated yearly.

Regular contributor to the Domestic Relations Journal of Ohio including the following articles:

Essential but Frequently Missing Pension Evidence in Divorce, July/August 2019, Volume 31, Issue 4.

Survivorship: Inherent Right or Ancillary Asset in a Pension, September/October 2019, Volume 31, Issue 5

Tracing Marital and Separate Property, January/February 2020, Volume 32, Issue 1

Understanding Those “Hybrid” Cash Balance Plans, May/June 2021, Volume 33, Issue 3

Choosing the Right Benefit Clause in a Cash Balance Plan, July/August 2021, Volume 33, Issue 4

Winning with Hoyt and other Supreme Court Cases, November/December 2021, Volume 33, Issue 6

Avoiding the Double Dip of a Pension, January/February 2022, Volume 34, Issue 1

Gains/Losses or Equitable Conversion: Part I, November/December 2022, Volume 34, Issue 6

Gains/Losses or Equitable Conversion: Part II, March/April 2023, Volume 35, Issue 2

TEACHING DOMESTIC RELATIONS SEMINARS

2019 The Supreme Court of Ohio Judicial College, *Four Issues in Dividing Retirement Assets* (June 13, 2019) – two-hour presentation (co-presenter)

Thirty-First AAML Ohio Chapter Harold R. Kemp Annual Family Law Symposium, *Avoiding Toxic Bites from Executive Compensation Plans and Other Dangerous Creatures* (October 14, 2019) – one-hour presentation (co-presenter)

2021 Cleveland Metropolitan Bar Association, *Common QDRO Pitfalls* (May 21, 2021) – one-hour presentation

Summit County Community Legal Aid, *QDROs: A Practical and Interactive Training on Best Practices (Part 2)* (August 18, 2021) – one-hour presentation (co-presenter)

Lake County Bar Association 2021 Family Law Seminar, *Tracing Separate Property in Retirement: When a Passive Growth Analysis is Important* (September 24, 2021) – one-hour presentation (co-presenter)

Akron Bar Association: Family Law Section, *QDROs: Fewer Stumbles with Best Practices* (October 5, 2021) – one-hour presentation (co-presenter)

- Ohio CSEA Directors Association Fall Training, *Using a QDRO as a Tool to Collect Child Support* (October 18, 2021) – one-hour and fifteen minute presentation
- New Jersey Bar Association, *Dividing Retirement Assets in Divorce: When you Need a QDRO, When you Don't and How to Understand One When you Do* (November 17, 2021) – one-hour presentation (co-presenter)
- 2022 New Jersey Bar Association, *How are Disability Payments Handled in Pension Cases with Qualified Domestic Relations Order* (May 5, 2022) – one-hour presentation (co-presenter)
- Richland County Bar Association, *Understanding Dividing State Retirement Benefits in Divorce* (December 8, 2022) – three-hour presentation (co-presenter)
- 2023 New Jersey Bar Association, *Dividing Retirement Assets in Divorce: When You Need a QDRO, When You Don't and How to Understand One When You Do* (February 28, 2023) – three-hour and thirty minute presentation (co-presenter)
- Lake County Bar Association, *More than Just Retirement: Finding and Dividing Executive Compensation Plans* (May 7, 2023) – one-hour and thirty minute presentation (co-presenter)
- Akron Bar Association, *Solutions for Dividing Military Pensions* (November 16, 2023) – one-hour presentation (co-presenter)
- 2024 New Jersey Bar Association, *Retirement Assets in Divorce: QDROs* (April 10, 2024) – three-hour and thirty minute presentation (co-presenter)
- Trumbull County Bar Association, *Social Security Offsets, Military Pensions and Social Security Disability* (May 15, 2024) – one-hour and thirty minute presentation (co-presenter)
- Stark County Bar Association, *Valuing and Dividing Ohio Public Retirement Plans in Divorce* (November 6, 2024) – one-hour presentation (co-presenter)
- 2025 New Jersey State Bar Association, *Dividing Retirement Assets in Divorce: When You Need a QDRO, When You Don't, and How to Understand One When You Do* (May 29, 2025) – three-hour presentation (co-presenter)
- Ohio State Bar Association, *Dividing and Valuing Retirement Assets in Divorce* (June 16, 2025) – one-hour presentation (co-presenter)

Committee on Regional Training (Indiana, West Virginia, Michigan and Ohio), *Dividing Retirement Assets in Divorce and the Effect of the Social Security Fairness Act* (July 24, 2025) – one-hour and thirty minute presentation (co-presenter)

Akron, Ohio Bar Association, *Dividing Retirement Assets in Divorce and the Effect of the Social Security Fairness Act* (October 7, 2025) – one-hour and thirty minute presentation (co-presenter)