



THE WAGNER
LAW GROUP



[Israel Goldowitz](#)

The Wagner Law Group

The Wagner Law Group is a nationally recognized practice in the areas of ERISA and employee benefits, estate planning, employment, labor and human resources, investment management, immigration and family law.

Established in 1996, The Wagner Law Group is dedicated to the highest standards of integrity, excellence and thought leadership and is considered to be amongst the nation's premier ERISA and employee benefits law firms. The firm has nine offices across the country, providing unparalleled legal advice to its clients, including large, small and nonprofit corporations as well as individuals and government entities worldwide. The Wagner Law Group's 37 attorneys, senior benefits consultant and seven paralegals combine many years of experience in their fields of practice with a variety of backgrounds. The firm is recognized by *U.S. News and World Report* as a Tier 1 Best Law Firm in the areas of ERISA and employee benefits. Nine of the firm's attorneys are AV-rated

Former Chief Counsel of PBGC, Israel Goldowitz, Joins Preeminent National Law Firm's Washington, D.C. Office

Boston, MA, January 23, 2019 - Marcia Wagner, the Managing Director of The Wagner Law Group, widely recognized as the country's top ERISA and employee benefits law firm, is pleased to announce that attorney Israel Goldowitz has joined the firm as Partner. "Our amazing team of attorneys is now joined by one of the nation's foremost experts in employee benefits, whose vast experience, including as Chief Counsel of the PBGC, speaks for itself. We are extraordinarily proud to welcome Izzy," says Ms. Wagner.

Mr. Goldowitz has more than 35 years of experience in employee benefits, most notably with mergers and acquisitions, restructuring, and bankruptcy as they affect pension plans. As the Chief Counsel for the Pension Benefit Guaranty Corporation (PBGC), Mr. Goldowitz led the legal teams that helped save the pensions of such companies as Chrysler and American Airlines. He also led the legal teams that negotiated pension protections with such companies as Sears and Gannett.

Mr. Goldowitz is a seasoned litigator who has helped establish several key precedents in the U.S. Supreme Court and Courts of Appeals. Among them are decisions upholding mandatory arbitration of withdrawal liability claims, defining the rules for terminating single-employer plans and for related asset distributions, and confirming the application of ERISA in pension disputes in bankruptcy.

Mr. Goldowitz began his career with the United Mine Workers of America Health & Retirement Funds, a pioneering group of multiemployer plans. He was the lead PBGC attorney on multiemployer transactions, rulings and advice for many years, and most recently, oversaw that work as PBGC's Deputy General Counsel for Program Law and Policy. He has also had charge of several friend-of-court briefs that helped shape the law governing multiemployer

by *Martindale-Hubbell* and seven are Fellows of the *American College of Employee Benefits Counsel*, an invitation-only organization of nationally recognized employee benefits lawyers. Seven of the firm's attorneys have been named to the prestigious *Super Lawyers* list for 2018, which highlights outstanding lawyers based on a rigorous selection process. The Wagner Law Group is certified as a woman-owned and operated business by the *Women's Business Enterprise National Council*.



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While serving as Deputy General Counsel, Mr. Goldowitz also oversaw the development of regulations and other guidance for the PBGC single-employer and multiemployer insurance programs and advised Congress on legislative proposals affecting those programs.

Additionally, he advised on retirement security in general, including new models for improving employee coverage while limiting employer cost and exposure.

Mr. Goldowitz is well known in the ERISA and bankruptcy community and to leaders in government, business, employee, and retiree associations, and academia. He is a frequent speaker and has written book chapters, articles, and continuing legal education materials on both employee benefits and bankruptcy topics. Mr. Goldowitz is a member of the Board of Governors of the American College of Employee Benefits Counsel and is active in the International Pension and Employee Benefits Lawyers Association. He served on the Labor and Benefits Advisory Committee to the American Bankruptcy Institute's Chapter 11 Reform Commission and co-wrote the report of the pension subcommittee. Mr. Goldowitz has taught in the Georgetown University Law Center Masters of Law program since 1991 and is a member of the John Marshall Law School Employee Benefits Advisory Board. He earned his J.D. from George Washington University National Law Center and his B.A. in History from Boston University.

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