Peter Vassalo

Senior Counsel

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Practice Areas

Occupational Safety and Health

Overview

Peter Vassalo brings nearly three decades of distinguished service from the U.S. Department of Labor's (DOL) Office of the Solicitor in the Division of Occupational Safety and Health, where he played a pivotal role in shaping federal occupational safety and health enforcement. This breadth of experience offers unique value in counseling employers in all aspects of OSHA compliance as well as assisting in navigating and OSHA complaints and inspections and resolving any subsequent OSHA citations.

During his tenure at the DOL, Peter held numerous roles, most recently serving as Counsel for Special Litigation. In this capacity he was at the forefront of sophisticated and high-impact enforcement matters, overseeing OSHA's Egregious Enforcement Program and the negotiation of complex, company-wide settlements. He was also the primary point of contact for enforcing OSHA's Process Safety Management (PSM) standard and led national efforts related to ergonomic enforcement. Additionally, Peter acted as the national coordinator for all OSHA matters involving potential criminal violations. Peter is also a sought-after trainer and speaker with deep experience designing and teaching courses on topics such as general OSHA Law, PSM, and citation writing to OSHA Compliance Officers at OSHA's Training Institute, as well as presenting OSHA enforcement policy to outside organizations.

Peter is actively involved in the American Bar Association's Labor and Employment Law Section, having served as the Government Co-Chair of the Workplace Occupational Safety and Health Committee and as a chapter editor of the ABA's Occupational Safety and Health Law treatise.

Professional and Community Affiliations

- Member, Labor and Employment Law Section, Workplace Occupational Safety and Health Committee, American Bar Association

Education

J.D., Case Western Reserve University School of Law,
B.A., University of Michigan,

Bar Admissions

District of Columbia

Publications & Press

Don’t Wait for OSHA: Start Protecting Workers from Heat
Industry Today
October 13, 2026

OSHA Releases New Guidance for Opioid Emergencies
Littler ASAP
September 25, 2026

Littler’s Workplace Policy Institute Releases 2026 Labor Day Report
Press Release
September 8, 2026

WPI Labor Day Report: Ten Issues Shaping the Workplace in 2026
Littler Report
September 7, 2026

OSHA Recordkeeping Update: Fifth Circuit Vacates Mandatory Work-Related Mental Illness Reporting Rule
Littler ASAP
July 31, 2026

OSHA Announces Public Hearings this Summer for Over 20 Proposed Rules
Littler ASAP
June 9, 2026

Virginia Passes Heat Illness Legislation, Other States to Follow
SHRM
May 5, 2026

OSHA Updates and Extends its Heat Program for Five More Years
Littler ASAP
April 16, 2026

Virginia Advances Heat Illness Legislation While Other States Are Poised to Follow Suit
Littler ASAP
April 9, 2026

Podcast: OSHA Policy and Enforcement Trends Under the Current Administration
EHS Today
February 17, 2026

Another Friday Night Surprise: Cal/OSHA Proposes State Analog to Worker Walkaround Rule
Littler ASAP
February 17, 2026

Drop in Work Safety Inspectors to Undermine Enforcement Efforts
Bloomberg Law
February 11, 2026

Editor's Column
Workplace Material Handling & Safety
January 13, 2026

Safety Agencies Show No Signs of Relaxing Enforcement for 2026
Bloomberg Law
December 24, 2025

Much Ado About OSHA Interpretation Letters
Littler ASAP
December 16, 2025

OSHA under scrutiny amid push to curb federal power
Lexology PRO
December 11, 2025

OSHA's Back! Next Steps for Employers
Littler ASAP
November 14, 2025

From OSHA Enforcement to Employment Law
Industrial Safety and Hygiene News (ISHN)

October 27, 2025

Shutdown halts OSHA informal conferences; inspections continue
Business Insurance
October 22, 2025

Federal Government Shutdown Halts Most OSHA Operations, Creating Enforcement and Litigation Delays
Occupational Health & Safety
October 3, 2025

How Does the U.S. Government Shutdown Impact Workplace Safety?
Industrial Safety and Hygiene News
October 2, 2025

The Impact of a Federal Government Shutdown on OSHA
Littler ASAP
September 30, 2025

Comp Spotlight with Peter Vassalo of Littler
Business Insurance
September 25, 2025

Littler Strengthens OSHA Bench with High-Profile Addition of Former DOL Attorney Peter Vassalo to Washington, D.C. Office
Press Release
September 10, 2025

Events & Speaking Engagements

2026 Mid-Atlantic Regional Employer Conference
Washington, DC
June 12, 2026

Safety First Before an Inspection: How to Engage with OSHA Through the Rulemaking Process, Letters of Interpretation and Cooperative Programs
February 10, 2026