

Businesses Say ‘Yes’ To Robb As Labor Board’s Top Lawyer

August 25, 2017 | [National Labor Relations Board](#), [Labor Relations](#)

Peter Robb, a Vermont management-side labor lawyer, is expected to be named general counsel for the National Labor Relations Board (NLRB), pending a background check as [reported](#) in various industry publications. Robb would replace outgoing NLRB General Counsel Richard Griffin whose term expires Oct. 31. Robb currently represents businesses in labor disputes at Downs Rachlin Martin PLLC and, with the board slated to have a GOP majority for the first time in a decade, is a key nomination for business advocates who are anxious to see the board reconsider various Obama-era worker-friendly decisions. These include the expansion of joint-employer liability, shortening the time period for union elections, and limiting employers’ use of contracts to block class actions by their workforce. This would not be Robb’s first employment with the agency. Early in his career, he worked as an NLRB field attorney and later as chief counsel for then-member Robert P. Hunter, who served on the board from 1981 to 1985. The general counsel position has broad authority to issue unfair labor practice charges and bring cases before the NLRB. With this control, Robb would be able to select appropriate “test cases” for the newly formed GOP-majority board, which would reverse Obama-era decisions that business owners say tilt too favorably toward the union agenda. Even assuming Robb lands the position and takes over in late October, it will likely be months before any potential test cases are heard by the board.

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