

State rankings

The following firms and individuals were consistently recommended as the best in litigation in their respective states.

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ALABAMA

Local litigation firms

Highly recommended

Beasley Allen Crow Methvin Portis & Miles

Bradley Arant Boulton Cummings

Cunningham Bounds

Hare Wynn Newell & Newton

Lightfoot Franklin & White

Rushton Stakely Johnston & Garrett

Starnes & Atchison

Recommended

Balch & Bingham

Cabaniss Johnston Gardner Dumas & O'Neal

Christian & Small

Cory Watson Crowder & DeGaris

Helmsing Leach Herlong Newman & Rouse

Lanier Ford Shaver & Payne

Marsh Rickard & Bryan

Maynard Cooper & Gale

McDowell Knight Roedder & Sledge

Local litigation stars

Greg Allen

Beasley Allen Crow Methvin Portis & Miles
Products Liability

LaBella Alvis

Christian & Small
Products Liability

Leon Ashford

Hare Wynn Newell & Newton
Commercial Litigation, Medical Malpractice,
Personal Injury, Products Liability

Michael Atchison

Starnes & Atchison
Commercial Litigation, Products Liability, Securities

James Axon

Starnes & Atchison
Products Liability

Lee Bains Jr.

Maynard Cooper & Gale
Appellate, Class Actions, Complex Commercial
Litigation

Allen Baker

Balch & Bingham
Products Liability

Walter Bates

Starnes & Atchison
General Civil Litigation, Intellectual Property,
Products Liability

Jere Beasley

Beasley Allen Crow Methvin Portis & Miles
Business Litigation, Fraud, Insurance, Personal
Injury, Products Liability

Andy Birchfield

Beasley Allen Crow Methvin Portis & Miles
Mass Torts, Products Liability

John Bolus

Maynard Cooper & Gale
Commercial Litigation, Insurance, Securities

Gregory Breedlove

Cunningham Bounds
Class Actions, Complex Commercial Litigation,
Insurance, Medical Negligence, Personal Injury,
Products Liability

Robert Brock

Rushton Stakely Johnston & Garrett
Antitrust, Civil Litigation, Health Law

JR Brooks

Lanier Ford Shaver & Payne
Appellate, Commercial Litigation

Joseph "Buddy" Brown

Cunningham Bounds
Insurance, Medical Malpractice, Personal Injury,
Products Liability

J. Russ Campbell

Balch & Bingham
Commercial Litigation

Thomas Christian

Christian & Small
Class Actions, Complex Commercial Litigation,
Health Law, Medical Malpractice, Products Liability,
Professional Liability

Ralph Cook

Hare Wynn Newell & Newton
Commercial Litigation, Medical Malpractice,
Products Liability, Securities

Julia Cooper

Bradley Arant Boulton Cummings
Complex Commercial Litigation

Ernest Cory

Cory Watson Crowder & DeGaris
Personal Injury

Robert Cunningham

Cunningham Bounds
Admiralty and Maritime, Aviation Law, Insurance,
Medical Malpractice, Personal Injury, Products
Liability

Michael Edwards

Balch & Bingham
Financial Services Litigation

Michael Ermert

Hare Wynn Newell & Newton
Complex Class Actions, Medical Malpractice

Michael Florie

Starnes & Atchison
General Civil Litigation, Intellectual Property, Medical
Malpractice, Products Liability

Samuel Franklin

Lightfoot Franklin & White
Appellate, Business Litigation, Class Actions,
Environmental Law, Pharmaceutical and Medical
Device Litigation, Products Liability, Securities

James Gerwin

Bradley Arant Boulton Cummings
General Civil Litigation

John Haley

Hare Wynn Newell & Newton
Commercial Litigation, Medical Malpractice,
Securities

Frederick Helmsing

Helmsing Leach Herlong Newman & Rouse
Products Liability, White Collar Crime

James Huckaby

Christian & Small
Antitrust, Commercial Litigation, Products Liability,
Securities



Robert Huffaker

Rushton Stakely Johnston & Garrett
Complex Commercial Litigation, Construction Law,
Insurance

David Hymer

Bradley Arant Boulton Cummings
Complex Commercial Litigation

John Johnson

Lightfoot Franklin & White
Products Liability

Thomas Keene

Rushton Stakely Johnston & Garrett
Medical and Professional Liability, Personal Injury,
Wrongful Death

Michael Knight

McDowell Knight Roedder & Sledge
Complex Commercial Litigation, Personal Injury,
Property Law, Wrongful Death

George Knox

Lanier Ford Shaver & Payne
Civil Litigation, Commercial Litigation

John Leach

Helmsing Leach Herlong Newman & Rouse
Commercial Litigation, Products Liability

David Marsh

Marsh Rickard & Bryan
Personal Injury, Wrongful Death

Jerry McDowell

McDowell Knight Roedder & Sledge
Commercial Litigation

Crawford McGivaren

Cabaniss Johnston Gardner Dumas & O'Neal
Commercial Litigation, Personal Injury, Securities

Michael McKibben

Bradley Arant Boulton Cummings
Antitrust, Commercial Litigation

Hobart McWhorter

Bradley Arant Boulton Cummings
Commercial Litigation, Products Liability, Securities

James Newman

Helmsing Leach Herlong Newman & Rouse
Medical Malpractice, Products Liability

Donna Pate

Lanier Ford Shaver & Payne
Appellate, Commercial Litigation, Employment
Litigation

Harlan Prater

Lightfoot Franklin & White
Products Liability

James Pratt

Hare Wynn Newell & Newton
Complex Commercial Litigation, Products Liability

Stanley Rodgers

Lanier Ford Shaver & Payne
Appellate, Insurance, Personal Injury, Products
Liability

William Roedder

McDowell Knight Roedder & Sledge
Commercial Litigation, Insurance

Alan Rogers

Balch & Bingham
Appellate, Commercial Litigation, Insurance,
Products Liability

Randal Sellers

Starnes & Atchison
Complex Commercial Litigation, Insurance, Products
Liability

Clarence Small Jr.

Christian & Small
Commercial Litigation

Rik Tozzi

Starnes & Atchison
Commercial Litigation

Thomas Wells Jr.

Maynard Cooper & Gale
Commercial Litigation, Products Liability

Jere White

Lightfoot Franklin & White
Appellate, Commercial Litigation

Future stars

Bruce Barze Jr.
Balch & Bingham

David Cain Jr.
Cunningham Bounds

Clark Cooper
Christian & Small

William "Buddy" Cox
Lightfoot Franklin & White

Annie Dike
Helmsing Leach Herlong Newman & Rouse

Richard Gaal
McDowell Knight Roedder & Sledge

Tripp Haston
Bradley Arant Boulton Cummings

Angela Holt
Lanier Ford Shaver & Payne

Matthew Lembke
Bradley Arant Boulton Cummings

Matthew Minner
Hare Wynn Newell & Newton

Kenneth Perry
Bradley Arant Boulton Cummings

Archibald Reeves
McDowell Knight Roedder & Sledge

Patrick Shegon
Rushton Stakely Johnston & Garrett

Deborah Smith
Christian & Small

Sharon Stuart
Christian & Small

Arnold Umbach
Starnes & Atchison



Alabama

One of the largest securities fraud cases of the decade was tried in Alabama this year. The SEC investigation of Birmingham-based HealthSouth Corporation began in 2004 and ended with the 2009 conviction of former HealthSouth CEO Richard Scrushy. Scrushy was found guilty of 36 counts of money laundering, extortion and bribery. Within two months of the verdict, Scrushy was incarcerated in a Shelby County prison and ordered to pay \$2.87 billion in restitution. The disgraced former CEO's name was also removed from various buildings and highways around the state.

Highly recommended firms

Beasley Allen Crow Methvin Portis & Miles
Founded in 1979, Beasley Allen Crow Methvin Portis & Miles has built a formidable plaintiffs' practice, concentrating primarily on business and environmental litigation, personal injury, consumer fraud and products liability. Operating out of Montgomery, the firm has earned a reputation statewide for achieving record-setting victories, including billion-dollar verdicts against oil and pharmaceutical companies. The firm has also chalked up the largest predatory lending verdict in US history; a jury awarded over \$580 million in a case against a fraudulent finance company that was soliciting customers to buy satellite dishes on bogus credit cards.

Much of the firm's success is attributed to its founder and lead litigator, **Jere Beasley**, a "feared" trial lawyer who one peer describes as "someone you don't want to see on the opposite side of the aisle." Beasley's practice focuses on personal injury claims, and he has been responsible for some of the firm's biggest wins. **Greg Allen**, a products liability specialist, recently settled two cases for severely injured clients for a combined \$30 million. **Andy Birchfield** earns praise for his work in the pharmaceutical industry, which includes representing plaintiffs who suffered a heart attack or stroke in the negotiation of a \$4.85 billion Vioxx settlement. **Thomas Methvin** and **Joseph "Jay" Aughtman** are commended for their consumer fraud specialist skills.

Bradley Arant Boulton Cummings

Bradley Arant Boulton Cummings, the product of the 2009 merger of Boulton Cummings Connors & Berry and Bradley Arant Rose & White, remains one of the strongest and most celebrated litigation firms in Alabama. The firm has extended its footprint to include a new office in Tennessee and a team that has grown to 360 attorneys. Headquartered in Birmingham, the firm's activities are conducted through three Alabama offices as well as one each in Mississippi, North Carolina, Tennessee and Washington.

James Gewin remains one of the most mentioned litigators in the state, with an excellent antitrust and general commercial litigation practice. Another revered litigator, **Michael McKibben**, continues to have success representing healthcare providers and institutions as well as manufacturers in the consumer goods and tire industries. **Julia Cooper** serves as lead counsel for the firm's ongoing representation of HealthSouth

“Jere Beasley is a ‘feared’ trial lawyer who one peer describes as ‘someone you don’t want to see on the opposite side of the aisle.’”

Corporation in cases arising out of the multi-billion dollar accounting fraud perpetrated by former company officers. **David Hymer** is lauded for his representation of HealthSouth, as well as his antitrust and products liability experience. **Matthew Lembke's** profile is rising on the strength of his "impressive" appellate practice in state and federal courts.

Cunningham Bounds

Based in Mobile, Cunningham Bounds remains one of the premier, go-to plaintiffs firms in the state. "They prepare meticulously, go to trial, and win" is how one peer describes the firm's strategy. Renowned regionally for its medical malpractice and products liability work, the firm is gaining noteworthy status for its work in other practice areas as well. In October 2008, the firm successfully achieved a \$192 million verdict in a patent infringement case on behalf of an inventor whose idea for recycling hazardous phenol waste products into tires and other products was misappropriated and patented without his knowledge by INEOS Phenol, an international chemical company with a plant in Alabama.

Robert Cunningham and **Gregory Breedlove** are "brand-name lawyers" in their respective practices. Cunningham was co-lead counsel (in conjunction with **George**

"Skip" Finkbohner) on the patent case against INEOS. **Joseph "Buddy" Brown** also earns peer respect for his "tenacious and fearless" trial capabilities. Brown served as lead counsel on a case resulting from an explosion due to a defective water heater part, for which he achieved a \$50 million verdict on his client's behalf. Serving as co-counsel on this case was **David Cain Jr.**, who was admitted to the Alabama bar in 2003 and has already received impressive accolades.

Hare Wynn Newell & Newton

Birmingham-based plaintiffs' firm Hare Wynn Newell & Newton states its philosophy is "to seek justice for victims of injury – physical, intellectual, legal, or financial." The firm offers its services in aviation, medical malpractice, products liability, mass torts and securities fraud, and continues to chalk up multimillion-dollar verdicts on behalf of clients in each of these categories. "These are honest-to-goodness trial lawyers," states one peer.

Leon Ashford earns almost unanimous

praise from the Alabama legal community. One peer describes him as "an outstanding lawyer," while another says "he wins million-dollar verdicts like clockwork." Ashford reinforces this praise with significant victories in the personal injury and medical malpractice fields. **John Haley** also commands attention for his recent success as lead plaintiff in the trial that brought down Richard Scrushy in the HealthSouth fraud. **Ralph Cook** is called "direct and involved" and has logged hundreds of trials ranging from personal injury and medical malpractice cases to commercial litigation to securities fraud matters. **James Pratt** and **Michael Ermert** both display "exceptional courtroom flair" in products liability trials, and **Matthew Minner** receives praise for his work in personal injury, wrongful death, products liability, business litigation and medical malpractice.

Lightfoot Franklin & White

Lightfoot Franklin & White concentrates its efforts solely on civil litigation matters, excelling at trial in the areas of commercial litigation, products liability, antitrust, intellectual property, personal injury, professional malpractice and both consumer and securities fraud. Lightfoot lawyers recently successfully litigated to completion a nine-year case on behalf of ExxonMobil

Corporation with regards to allegations of breach of contract and fraud concerning oil and gas royalties brought by the State of Alabama against the company.

Samuel Franklin, who served as lead counsel in the ExxonMobil case, is regarded as a “premier lawyer” and a “major player” in Alabama, and his practice concentrates primarily on business litigation and securities work. **Jere White** represents major corporations in products liability cases, class actions, business torts and multi-plaintiff mass tort matters, and he is also developing an impressive appellate practice. **Harlan Prater** displays “real skill” in his business litigation and products liability work, which includes a recent victory on behalf of Ford Motor Company in a wrongful death case. **John Johnson** is noted for his environmental, toxic tort, and products liability work and, according to one client, possesses a “wonderful grasp of the law, as well as the ability to articulate it at the jury level.”

Rushton Stakely Johnston & Garrett

Based in Montgomery, Rushton Stakely Johnston & Garrett has been active since 1890 and today offers defense services in personal injury, insurance, professional malpractice, antitrust, business and shareholder disputes, products liability, fraud, employment, health care and environmental cases. “They are always very well prepared and a great firm,” says one competitor. In May 2009, the firm successfully defended a personal injury case in which the plaintiff initially sought a claim of \$35,000.

Thomas Keene is considered an “outstanding trial lawyer” and “sets the standard for attorneys in the Montgomery area.” He recently litigated a catastrophic injury case in federal court, in which the plaintiff incurred brain damage as a result of a mishandled defibrillator insertion and sued the physician who prescribed this insertion. Keene successfully proved the insertion was necessary and saved the physician a potential \$10 million in damages. **Robert Huffaker** is recommended for his litigation of contractual and business disputes and antitrust, securities, fraud, and insurance matters. **Patrick Shegon** is tipped as a future star for his representation of health care providers.

Starnes & Atchison

Founded in 1975, Starnes & Atchison prides itself on devoting its entire practice to litigation. Known statewide for a “very broad” medical malpractice practice, the firm also tries cases involving business litigation, intellectual property, products liability and securities. “They have probably tried more cases than anyone in Birmingham” says one competitor. With one office in Birmingham and another in Mobile, the firm has extended its footprint

beyond Alabama and is garnering business throughout the entire Southeast.

Michael Atchison is recommended by peers as “one of the top bet-your-company lawyers.” He serves as lead counsel for securities class actions, commercial and business disputes, products liability matters, aviation accidents, employment discrimination and professional negligence suits in state and federal courts. **Michael Florie** is called “very thorough, a most accomplished trial lawyer.” One recent victory involves a wrongful death case in

Bradstreet and The Coca-Cola Company. Litigator **Crawford McGivaren** continues to be recognized as an established force at the trial and appellate levels in antitrust, insurance and personal injury/toxic tort litigation.

Christian & Small

Formed in 2000, Christian & Small, while still a relatively new firm, is garnering favorable recognition and a steady stream of clients extending all over Alabama, throughout the Southeast and beyond. The

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which a pregnant mother and her twin babies died as a result of a rare liver condition, in which the physician, who was accused of neglecting to correctly diagnose this condition, was exonerated as a result of Florie’s legal acumen. Serving as co-counsel on this case was **James Wilson Axon**, who generates future star recognition for his medical malpractice and products liability work.

Recommended firms

Balch & Bingham

Founded in 1922, Balch & Bingham today includes over 250 attorneys and counselors in its six offices throughout Alabama, Mississippi, Georgia, and Washington, D.C. The firm concentrates a good deal of its practice on products liability and personal injury but also litigates matters including antitrust, commercial litigation, and intellectual property. The firm recently obtained a \$10.4 million verdict on behalf of its client Parsons & Whitemore in a fraud and breach of contract case. **Michael Edwards** and **J. Russell Campbell** are lauded for their “excellent” work in securities and financial litigation and sports and entertainment litigation, respectively.

Cabaniss Johnston Gardner Dumas & O’Neal

Cabaniss Johnston Gardner Dumas & O’Neal traces its origins to 1887, making it one of the oldest and most familiar firms in the state. The firm’s practice areas include bankruptcy, commercial litigation, environmental law, employment law and railroad law, and it maintains a policy of customizing its legal teams on a case-specific basis for optimal results. Cabaniss Johnston’s client roster includes major players such as Swiss Re, Dun and

firm regards handles a broad spectrum of cases including antitrust, appellate, bankruptcy, commercial litigation, products liability, and securities matters. **Thomas Christian** and **LaBella Alvis** are both noted for their medical malpractice and products liability work, respectively, while **James Huckaby** attends to a commercial and securities litigation practice. **Deborah Smith** and **Sharon Stuart** earn future star status for their appellate and commercial litigation practices, respectively.

Cory Watson Crowder & DeGaris

Cory Watson Crowder & DeGaris considers itself “a lawyer’s law firm,” in that most of its business is referred by other lawyers. The firm practices personal injury law not only in Alabama but on a national and international level, conducting depositions in Oregon, Washington, Honduras and Saudi Arabia for clients in the pharmaceutical, asbestos, vehicle and energy industries. The firm is currently resolving hundreds of Vioxx cases on behalf of individuals suffering side effects of the drug, and **Ernest Cory** is involved in a group of class actions against the oil industry with regards to gas that is not temperature-controlled.

Helmsing Leach Herlong Newman & Rouse

Mobile firm Helmsing Leach Herlong Newman & Rouse specializes in bankruptcy, insurance and products liability but also handles white-collar crime work as well. Members practice all throughout Alabama, Florida, Louisiana and Mississippi in a variety of specialties. Senior litigator **Frederick Helmsing** focuses on white-collar, business litigation, products liability, and tax controversy litigation matters. **James Newman** is also praised for his work in the insurance field. A recent case

involves a claim of several million dollars in coverage of exclusions. **John Leach** is noted for his products liability and personal injury work.

Lanier Ford Shaver & Payne

Huntsville-based Lanier Ford Shaver & Payne serves the northern Alabama area with over 40 defense attorneys, all organized into broad practice groups to comprise one “collection of specialists” within a full-service operation. These practice groups include commercial litigation, products liability, and financial services. The firm is noted for its “top-notch” patent and trademark services as well. **George Knox** is known for his professional liability, general commercial litigation and products liability practices, which include a growing number of medical malpractice cases. Patent attorney **Angela Holt** handles intellectual property cases for Huntsville’s burgeoning high-technology and engineering sectors.

Marsh Rickard & Bryan

Marsh Rickard & Bryan is a boutique firm concentrating primarily on personal injury, products liability and wrongful death. Formed in 1996, the firm has earned notable mentions from the Alabama legal community, especially for a young firm. The firm made news in 2008 when it successfully represented the family of a man shot to death by Alabama state troopers; the court ordered the state to pay the family \$900,000. Much of the firm’s success is attributed to attorney **David Marsh**, who is “recognized as an excellent trial lawyer.”

Maynard Cooper & Gale

Maynard Cooper & Gale is a full-service firm with a total of 170 lawyers between its offices in Birmingham, Montgomery and Huntsville. The firm’s diverse practice portfolio covers antitrust, appellate, civil litigation, intellectual property, products liability, and white-collar crime. **Lee Bains** is known as a “great talent” and “true go-to litigator” for his complex civil litigation work and mass tort practice. He also defends numerous class actions while acting as national class counsel for the life insurance components of one of the world’s largest insurers. **John Bolus** is also recognized for his work in insurance litigation and alternative dispute resolution work.

McDowell Knight Roedder & Sledge

McDowell Knight Roedder & Sledge, based in Mobile, represents international, national, state and local entities in litigation and appellate work in Alabama and throughout the Southeast. Litigation is the firm’s primary focus, with practices covering antitrust, bankruptcy, business litigation, class actions, insurance, products liability, professional malpractice and securities. Peers assess **Michael Knight** as “fantastic, a consummate professional and highly persuasive” in his products liability and personal injury practices. **Archibald Reeves** practices general civil litigation and recently completed a two-week federal jury trial defending an insurance company in breach-of-contract claims arising out of damage to a condominium development during Hurricane Ivan.



S. ALLEN BAKER, JR.**BALCH & BINGHAM LLP**

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S. ALLEN BAKER, JR. is a Partner in the firm's Products Liability & Casualty Litigation Practice Group and serves as General Counsel to the firm. For the last 30 years, Allen's practice has focused on the defense of personal injury and death cases arising out of product liability, negligence, and toxic and environmental torts. Mr. Baker defends a wide variety of electrical cases, electrical products, and related claims which involve application of national consensus standards, such as the National Electrical Safety Code, NEC, OSHA, NFPA Standard 921. Mr. Baker works on construction cases defending contractors and premises owners where they have been charged with negligence in failing to provide a safe workplace, failure to warn, negligent inspection, etc. Mr. Baker defends commercial breach of contract claims and breach of contract claims on construction projects including resolution of materialman and mechanic liens. Mr. Baker understands the issues facing developers, architects and engineers as projects move from inception through completion including resolution of disputes that may arise between construction professionals. He also serves as Alabama counsel for several large corporations defending asbestos cases. Mr. Baker serves as Coordinating Counsel for asbestos litigation for the states' largest public utility.

Mr. Baker is a member of the Alabama State Bar where he serves on the Disciplinary Rules & Enforcement Committee; the American Bar Association, Torts, Insurance & Litigation Sections; Alabama Defense Lawyers Association; Defense Research Institute (DRI); Federation of Defense & Corporate Counsel; International Association of Defense Counsel; Alabama Defense Lawyers Trial Academy, Former faculty; and Lawyers for Civil Justice Representative.

Mr. Baker is listed in *The Best Lawyers in America*, 2005 - 2010 Editions; *Alabama Super Lawyers*, 2008 - 2009; 2005 "Best of the Bar", Products Liability (100 + lawyers); named a "Local Star" by *Benchmark Litigation*; and named a "Top Attorney" by *Birmingham Magazine*, 2009.

He is admitted in all U.S. District Courts, 11th Circuit Court of Appeals, & the Court of Federal Claims.

J. RUSS CAMPBELL**BALCH & BINGHAM LLP**

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RUSS CAMPBELL is the Chairman of the Litigation section at Balch & Bingham LLP as well as the founding partner of the firm's Sports and Entertainment Practice. His practice includes:

Energy and Utility Litigation; Mr. Campbell represents electric utilities in proceedings before the Federal Communications Commission, the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, trial courts, and appellate courts. Mr. Campbell served as lead counsel for several utilities in appellate proceedings arising out of the Telecommunications Act of 1996. Additionally, Mr. Campbell has litigated cases arising out of the Western Energy Crisis relating to (1) adequate assurances under forward power contracts, (2) natural gas churning, (3) antitrust and RICO violations relating to certain natural gas pipelines, (4) market manipulation by Enron and others, and (5) imbalance provisions in various control area tariffs.

Commercial Litigation— Mr. Campbell's commercial litigation experience relates primarily to complex commercial disputes, representing companies and individuals in actions involving allegations of fraud, misrepresentation, and violations of both state and federal securities laws as well as banks and financial institutions in cases in which recovery was sought for alleged fraud, breach of contract, outrage, negligence, conversion and racketeering.

Products Liability and Casualty- Mr. Campbell has served as counsel in a variety of personal injury and wrongful death cases. He has also defended class action matters including claims involving mislabeling and misbranding of various nutritional products.

Sports and Entertainment— Mr. Campbell serves as a professional contract negotiator and/or legal counsel for several NFL players (e.g., Alfred Malone, and Brannon Condren), NFL Coaches (Jacksonville Jaguars Quarter back Coach Mike Shula (joint representation with The Law Offices of J. Mark Rodgers), and collegiate coaches (e.g., University of Arkansas Head Coach Bobby Petrino, Auburn Head Coach Gene Chizik, Southern Mississippi Head Coach Larry Fedora, Samford Head Coach Pat Sullivan, and Troy University Head Coach Larry Blakeney). Mr. Campbell also handles negotiations for sports broadcasters and other television/radio talent. Mr. Campbell is a Member and Contract Advisor of the National Football League Players Association and the Canadian Football League Players Association.

MICHAEL L. EDWARDS**BALCH & BINGHAM LLP**

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MICHAEL L. EDWARDS practices in the firm's Litigation section and in the Financial Services and Transactions section. He was Chair of the Litigation Section from 1989 through 1996 and is a founding member of the firm's Diversity Committee. His practice is concentrated in business litigation. He has represented financial institutions, health care providers, accounting firms, manufacturing, mining and energy companies, as well as individuals. He has experience in products liability, trademark, patent, trade secret, and computer litigation.

Mr. Edwards has lectured on a variety of legal topics, including trial of complex cases, appellate practice, enforcement of agreements to arbitrate, class actions, lender liability, securities litigation, accountants' liability, shareholder liability for corporate debt, covenants not to compete, and the attorney-client privilege.

Mr. Edwards professional activities include:

- Fellow, American College of Trial Lawyers
- American Board of Trial Advocates
- Master, Birmingham Inns of Court (President, 2001-2003)
- Adjunct Professor, University of Alabama School of Law, Advanced Evidence
- Listed in The Best Lawyers in America (Bet-the-Company Litigation and Commercial Litigation), in Chambers USA America's Leading Lawyers for Business, and in Alabama Super Lawyers 2009
- Fellow, Alabama Law Foundation.
- American Arbitration Association, Arbitrator - Commercial Panel; Mediator
- United States Army, Judge Advocate General's Corps, 1966 - 1971
- Named a "Local Star" by Benchmark Litigation
- Named a "Top Attorney" by Birmingham Magazine, 2009

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Crawford S McGivaren Jr has been listed among The Best Lawyers in America in Business and Personal Injury Litigation since 1989. He has been named by *Super Lawyers* magazine as one of the top 50 lawyers in the state of Alabama. He is listed in the Who's Who legal section under USA Commercial Litigation. He is also named in the inaugural edition of *Benchmark* as a leading lawyer. He is a Fellow of the American College of Trial Lawyers. He serves as Alabama Division Counsel for Norfolk Southern Corporation. He is on the Executive Committee of the National Association of Railroad Trial Counsel.

His practice has encompassed contract, antitrust, unfair trade, partnership, shareholder oppression, dissenter's rights, director and officer liability litigation, insurance coverage and all manner of personal injury/toxic tort litigation. Ultimately prevailing after two en banc opinions, he was the principal defense counsel in the securities case which first recognized the "fraud-on-the-market" theory of Rule 10b-5 liability. He was trial and appellate counsel in groundbreaking cases resulting in federal preemption decisions favorable to the rail industry. He is responsible for medical malpractice defense and other litigation at two major Birmingham hospitals. He has defended class and individual claims asserting product liability, consumer finance violations and insurance fraud. He has handled employment, non-compete, and tortious interference claims and the successful defense of a long-running Human Rights Act case in West Virginia.

He is a member of the Defense Research Institute, the Alabama Defense Lawyers Association and The Torts and Insurance Practice and Health Law Sections of the ABA. He is active in bar, community, and charitable affairs.

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ALAN T. ROGERS serves as Chairman of the Firm's Executive Committee and Chaired the Firm's Litigation Section for 12 years. A Fellow of the American College of Trial Lawyers, he has substantial experience presenting cases to juries, judges, arbitrators and appellate courts. His cases have involved companies and professionals in many industries. Mr. Rogers has handled disputes involving shareholders, directors, corporate officers, commercial contracts, regulatory governance and other issues.

Mr. Rogers' professional activities include: Fellow, American College of Trial Lawyers; Alabama Defense Lawyers Association, Past Member, Board of Directors; Chairman, Task Force for Long Range Planning; Faculty Member, ADLA Trial Academy; Federation of Insurance and Corporate Counsel; Alabama State Bar, Past Chairman, Business Torts and Antitrust Section; Louisiana State Bar; University of Alabama School of Law, Adjunct Professor, Product Liability; American Arbitration Association, Certified Mediator; The Alabama Lawyer, Past Member, Editorial Board; Alabama Supreme Court, Advisory Committee on Rules of Evidence; Birmingham Regional Chamber of Commerce, Member, Executive Committee; Member, Chairman's Circle; Leadership Birmingham; The Exceptional Foundation (for special needs individuals), Past President, Board of Directors; Birmingham-Southern College, Member, Norton Board of Advisors for Management & Professional Education; Birmingham Bar Association, Chairman, Grievance Committee; Birmingham Y.M.C.A., Member, Board of Directors; Rotary International; Newcomen Society; American Inns of Court; Cumberland Law Institute, Speaker and Member of Planning Committees.

Mr. Rogers was named a "Local Star" by *Benchmark Litigation*; profiled in *Chambers USA Leading Lawyers for Business*, Commercial Litigation and listed in *The Best Lawyers in America*, 2005 - 2010 Editions.

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Sharon Stuart, partner with Christian & Small, is listed in *The Best Lawyers in America for Commercial Litigation*. Her practice involves complex business and insurance litigation matters. She is on the approved counsel lists for numerous clients. Ms Stuart has been fortunate to defend a wide variety of insurance coverage, bad faith and fraud cases. Her expertise includes life insurance, annuity, broker/dealer and agency issues, first party property cases, financial product, fidelity, and surety bond litigation. She has also handled a broad spectrum of cases involving corporate governance, patent and licensing issues, consumer finance issues, drug pricing and product liability claims. She is defending a multi-jurisdictional product liability action involving a dietary supplement. Ms Stuart's trial experience includes commercial and insurance fraud, bad faith, breach of contract, breach of fiduciary duty, negligence and wrongful death cases. She has also defended class action lawsuits in areas as diverse as consumer finance, insurance, toxic tort and employment law.

In addition to her busy litigation practice, Ms Stuart is a member of the firm's four person executive committee, the International Association of Defense Counsel, the Defense Research Institute, Alabama Defense Lawyers Association and American Inns of Court. She is a director of Attorneys Insurance Mutual, and she serves on the board of directors for the Literacy Council.