

# MISSISSIPPI

## Local litigation firms

### Highly recommended

Baker Donelson Bearman Caldwell & Berkowitz

Bradley Arant Boult Cummings

Brunini Grantham Grower & Hewes

Butler Snow O'Mara Stevens & Cannada

Forman Perry Watkins Krutz & Tardy

Phelps Dunbar

Watkins & Eager

### Recommended

Mitchell McNutt & Sams

Watkins Ludlam Winter & Stennis

Wise Carter Child & Caraway

## Local litigation stars

### Reuben Anderson

Phelps Dunbar  
Commercial Litigation

### Fred Banks Jr

Phelps Dunbar  
Appellate, Commercial Litigation

### Roy Campbell

Bradley Arant Boult Cummings  
Commercial Litigation, Insurance, Products Liability,  
Professional Liability

### Wayne Drinkwater Jr

Bradley Arant Boult Cummings  
Appellate, Commercial Litigation, Environmental  
Litigation

### Barry Ford

Baker Donelson Bearman Caldwell & Berkowitz  
Commercial Litigation, Health Law, Products  
Liability

### John Henegan

Butler Snow O'Mara Stevens & Cannada  
Antitrust, Complex Commercial Litigation,  
Intellectual Property, Media, Telecommunications

### David Kaufman

Brunini Grantham Grower & Hewes  
Commercial Litigation, Environmental Litigation,  
Personal Injury, Product Liability

### Christy Jones

Butler Snow O'Mara Stevens & Cannada  
Mass Torts, Products Liability, Professional Liability

### Walker Jones

Baker Donelson Bearman Caldwell & Berkowitz  
Commercial Litigation, Construction Litigation,  
Health Law, Products Liability

### Fred Krutz

Forman Perry Watkins Krutz & Tardy  
Commercial Litigation, Mass Torts

### Charles Ozier

Wise Carter Child & Caraway  
Commercial Litigation, Products Liability

### Alan Perry

Forman Perry Watkins Krutz & Tardy  
Antitrust, Complex Commercial Litigation,  
Intellectual Property, Securities

### Keith Raulston

Watkins Ludlam Winter & Stennis  
Commercial Litigation, Insurance, Products Liability

### William Reed

Baker Donelson Bearman Caldwell & Berkowitz  
Health Law, Intellectual Property, Products Liability

### Sandy Sams Jr

Mitchell McNutt & Sams  
Commercial Litigation, Products Liability,  
Professional Liability

### Christopher Shapley

Brunini Grantham Grower & Hewes  
Appellate, Commercial Litigation, Environmental  
Litigation, Personal Injury, Products Liability

### Paul Stephenson

Watkins & Eager  
Appellate, Class Actions, Commercial Litigation,  
Education Litigation

### Lee Thames

Butler Snow O'Mara Stevens & Cannada  
Class Actions, Commercial Litigation, Environmental  
Litigation, Products Liability

### Stephen Thomas

Bradley Arant Boult Cummings  
Commercial Litigation, Insurance, Products Liability

### Wendell Trapp

Mitchell McNutt & Sams  
Civil Litigation, Commercial Litigation, Insurance

### Michael Ulmer

Watkins & Eager  
Commercial Litigation, Mass Torts, Products Liability

### Michael Wallace

Wise Carter Child & Caraway  
Appellate, Commercial Litigation

### Walter Watkins

Forman Perry Watkins Krutz & Tardy  
Products Liability

### Scott Welch

Baker Donelson Bearman Caldwell & Berkowitz  
Appellate, Commercial Litigation, Products Liability

### John Wheeler

Mitchell McNutt & Sams  
Products Liability, Professional Liability



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## Future stars

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Jason Bush  
Baker Donelson Bearman Caldwell & Berkowitz

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Ashley Calhoun  
Forman Perry Watkins Krutz & Tardy

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Marcy Croft  
Forman Perry Watkins Krutz & Tardy

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Margaret Cupples  
Bradley Arant Rose & White

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Edwin Gault  
Forman Perry Watkins Krutz & Tardy

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Gretchen Kimble  
Wise Carter Child & Caraway

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Bradford Ray  
Watkins Ludlam Winter & Stennis

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Barney Robinson III  
Butler Snow O'Mara Stevens & Cannada

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Stephen Spencer  
Mitchell McNutt & Sams

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Trey Watkins  
Forman Perry Watkins Krutz & Tardy

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# Mississippi

**M**uch of the litigation in Mississippi is related to fallout from Hurricane Katrina. In the last six years, tort reform has greatly reduced the number of frivolous cases filed in state courts.

## Highly recommended firms

### Baker Donelson Bearman Caldwell & Berkowitz

With over 540 attorneys nationwide, Baker Donelson Bearman Caldwell & Berkowitz has two Mississippi offices in Jackson and Oxford. The firm has successfully represented local, national and international clients. Peers describe the firm's defense work as "one of the best practices in the state." The firm also has a significant labor and employment division.

**Barry Ford** focuses on products liability and health law, and on average tries five to ten cases a year. He has successfully argued medical malpractice, insurance and employment cases. **William Reed** enjoys a highly respected class action, insurance coverage, products liability and contract litigation practice, and has experience trying cases in federal and states courts. **Scott Welch** focuses on insurance, personal injury and products liability litigation and has appeared before the Mississippi Supreme Court and Mississippi Court of Appeals.

**Walker Jones** defends clients against products liability claims. He often represents major manufacturers and domestic and European insurance companies. Based out of Jackson, **Jason Bush** excels at commercial, construction, intellectual property and mass tort litigation.

### Bradley Arant Boult Cummings

With 360 attorneys, Bradley Arant Boult Cummings benefitted from a major expansion when Bradley Arant Rose & White merged with Boult Cummings Conner & Berry in January 2009. In addition to its Jackson office, the firm now has locations in Alabama, North Carolina, Tennessee, and the District of Columbia. The firm represents a diverse range of clients, from individuals to Fortune 500 companies on business litigation and products liability matters.

**Wayne Drinkwater Jr.** has a healthy litigation practice with a focus in commercial litigation and appellate work. His clients include 3M, Microsoft and State Farm. **Stephen Thomas'** practice concentrates on agricultural, commercial, mass tort, environmental and products liability litigation. He has served as lead defense counsel in the only multi-district litigation ever assigned to a federal district court in Mississippi. Past clients include American Honda Motor Company and ConAgra. **Margaret Cupples** focuses on commercial

litigation and civil appellate work. She also excels in handling insurance and asbestos mass tort cases.

**Roy Campbell** has a strong products liability, insurance, professional liability and commercial litigation practice and has appeared in courts in Mississippi and Tennessee.

### Brunini Grantham Grower & Hewes

Founded over a century ago, Brunini Grantham Grower & Hewes is a leading complex commercial litigation firm. The firm handles matters arising in the construction, employment, products liability, white-collar and environmental areas. Peers confirm the firm's dominating presence in the market. "The firm deserves to be at the top of any major list," says a competitor. Clients include Mississippi's largest health insurer and the nation's largest privately-held wireless company.

**David Kaufman** has been a member of the firm since 1978 and has significant experience handling complex commercial and mass tort cases in state, federal and appellate courts. **Christopher Shapley** is praised for his strong mass torts, environmental, insurance coverage and products liability practice. He has successfully defended a major pharmaceutical company and a leading lending institution in high-stakes litigation.

### Butler Snow O'Mara Stevens & Cannada

Described as a "very talented firm," Butler Snow O'Mara Stevens & Cannada excels at employment, mass torts, products liability, insurance, securities, and white collar criminal litigation. The firm maintains locations in Pennsylvania and Tennessee complementing local offices in Jackson and Gulfport, Mississippi. In the past two years, the firm's appellate practice has had significant success. In June 2009, the firm was appellate counsel to Dunlop Tire Corporation in a case before the Mississippi Court of Appeals in which the appeals court affirmed a trial court's summary judgment in Dunlop's favor. The court ruled that the plaintiffs, who had unsuccessfully brought a suit relating a serious tire-blowout, had failed to put forth sufficient evidence to bring the matter to trial.

Peers say that "Christy Jones is a great litigator." She has noteworthy pharmaceutical and products liability practice. She has served as lead counsel for Johnson & Johnson, defending the

manufacturer in a series of claims connecting the company's product Children's Motrin with the onset of Stevens-Johnson Syndrome. All of the cases have ended in defense verdicts. **John Henegan** focuses on antitrust, complex commercial and intellectual property matters. He is admitted to practice in the U.S. Supreme Court and the U.S. Court of Appeals in the Fifth, Eleventh, and Federal Circuits. **Lee Thames** has a notable class actions, commercial, environmental and products liability litigation practice. **Barney Robinson** excels in financial services, intellectual property, trade secrets, and copyrights and trademark litigation.

### Forman Perry Watkins Krutz & Tardy

Established in 1986 in Jackson, Forman Perry Watkins Krutz & Tardy has expanded to six offices, including locations in Texas, Colorado and Louisiana. In October 2008 the firm founded an office in Detroit to better serve its Midwestern clients. The firm's expertise lies in mass torts and products liability matters, although its partners are also capable of handling antitrust, bankruptcy, real estate and securities litigation. The firm currently represents U.S. Steel Corporation and Chubb & Son Insurance Company in a products liability matter filed in multiple jurisdictions. The case involves US Steel's supply of raw material to a consumer product manufacturer and the manufacturer's subsequent claims of benzene exposure. The client was granted summary judgment in the New Mexico case and a judgment notwithstanding verdict in the Mississippi case.

**Walter Watkins** has been practicing since 1978 and has served as national counsel for several Fortune 500 companies. He handles a wide range of products liability and mass tort matters relating to asbestos, trichlorobenzene, silica and other hazardous substances. **Fred Krutz** receives accolades for his mass torts practice, with a peer describing him as a "master litigator and strategist." **Ashley Calhoun** is a major contributor to the firm's general commercial litigation practice. Other litigators of note include rising stars **Marcy Croft**, **Edwin Gault** and **Trey Watkins**.

### Phelps Dunbar

Founded in New Orleans, Louisiana in 1853, Phelps Dunbar has a strong foothold in Mississippi litigation and operates out of Jackson, Gulfport and Tupelo. Competitors say that "the firm is full of smart lawyers." The Jackson team has a notable commercial, tort, gaming and intellectual property practice. The Tupelo office houses the firm's health care practice. The Gulfport office is equipped to handle construction, products liability, insurance and environmental litigation as well as alternative dispute resolution and mediation. The Gulfport partners work closely with their colleagues in New Orleans and serve clients in the Mississippi Gulf Coast region.

Notable for serving as the first African-American Supreme Court Justice in Mississippi, **Reuben Anderson** maintains a robust commercial, tort, and gaming litigation practice. Another former member of the Mississippi Supreme Court, **Fred Banks Jr.** is a senior partner at the firm and handles commercial and appellate litigation.

#### Watkins & Eager

Watkins & Eager began in 1895 and has achieved national recognition for its banking, construction, class action, insurance, and securities practices. The firm's appellate advocacy is considered top-notch, with litigators appearing before the U.S. Supreme Court, the Fifth Circuit Court of Appeals, the Mississippi Supreme Court and the Mississippi Court of Appeals. Past clients of the firm include National Solid Waste Management and Waste Management of Mississippi.

**Michael Ulmer** is well known for his products liability defense work, and has acted as primary counsel in cases involving automobiles, football helmets, tobacco, and welding. In addition, Ulmer has defended clients in various business and commercial litigation cases. Admitted to the Mississippi bar in 1977, firm chairman **Paul Stephenson** is recognized for his formidable class actions and energy law practice. He has counseled clients on matters of bankruptcy, consumer finance, and real estate.

#### Recommended firms

##### Mitchell McNutt & Sams

Mitchell McNutt & Sams handles construction, pharmaceutical, products liability and shareholder dispute litigation.

The firm has recently tackled intellectual property cases as well, focusing on trade secrets and copyright issues. The firm has been in existence for over a century and has offices in Columbus, Corinth, Oxford, Memphis and Tupelo.

Based in Tupelo, **Sandy Sams** is a leading

Bank. The recent addition of Tracy Herlihy had strengthened the firm's family law and insurance practices. **Keith Raulston** handles personal injury and insurance law matters.

##### Wise Carter Child & Caraway

Peers consider Wise Carter Child & Caraway

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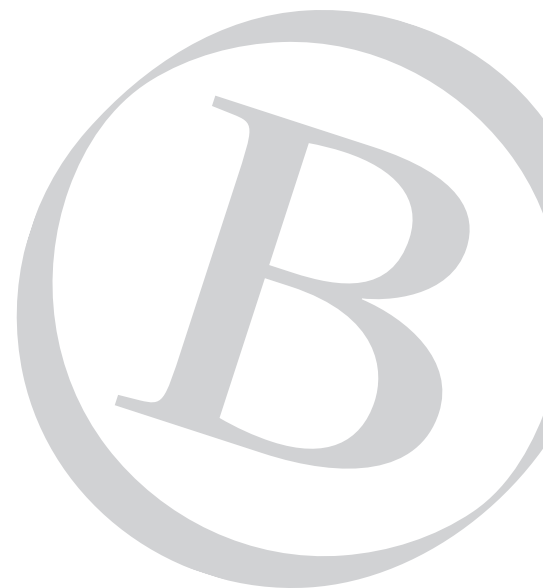
litigator in construction, business, and professional liability litigation. One peer describes him as a “solid lawyer.” **Wendell Trapp** is well-regarded for his work in insurance defense and bank-related litigation. **John Wheeler** chairs the litigation team and defends medical liability claims, pharmaceutical claims, personal injury matters and other products liability litigation. **Stephen Spencer** is noted for his insurance, employment discrimination and workers' compensation practice.

##### Watkins Ludlam Winter & Stennis

Watkins Ludlam Winter & Stennis is a highly reputable firm that has been in Mississippi for over a century. The firm offers litigation services in seven major industry groups: commercial litigation, health care, insurance, intellectual property, labor and products liability. Clients include Bell Utilities of Mississippi, Gannett River Sates Publishing, Mississippi Methodist Hospital & Rehabilitation Center and Union Planters

a substantial firm in Mississippi. The firm focuses on general commercial, products liability, and mass tort litigation from its offices in Jackson, Hattiesburg, and Biloxi. Clients include Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Mississippi, Biloxi Regional Medical Center, Entergy Mississippi, and Mississippi Hospital Association.

**Charles Ozier** has been an integral part of the firm since 1973. His practice involves commercial, products liability, pharmaceutical and railroad litigation. Located in the Jackson office, **Michael Wallace** has a concentration in commercial and appellate litigation. In 2008, he successfully defended Governor Haley Barbour in a lawsuit brought by the State Attorney General after Barbour sought to change the date of a special election for a potentially vacated U.S. Senate seat. **Gretchen Kimble** enjoys a wide practice, that covers commercial, employment, insurance, and medical malpractice claims.



## JOHN C HENEGAN


**BUTLER, SNOW, O'MARA, STEVENS & CANNADA PLLC**

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John C Henegan of the commercial litigation group at Butler, Snow, O'Mara, Stevens & Cannada PLLC, focuses on antitrust and intellectual property, complex commercial, media defense, telecommunications, and appellate practice.

Henegan is a fellow of the American Academy of Appellate Lawyers and is AV-rated by Martindale-Hubbell. A fellow of the Mississippi Bar Foundation as well, Henegan was also honored by *The Best Lawyers in America*® for bet-the-company litigation, appellate law, commercial litigation and first amendment law; *Chambers USA: America's Leading Lawyers for Business* for general commercial litigation and appellate law, and *Mid-South Super Lawyers*® for business litigation.

He is an active member of the American Bar Association's antitrust, litigation, patent and copyright Sections and Communications Law Forum. He is also affiliated with the Federal Bar Association, Federal Circuit Bar Association, Fifth Circuit Bar Association, Mississippi Bar Association, Mississippi Defense Lawyers Association and Media Law Resource Center, where he is past chair of the Employment Libel and Privacy Committee. Henegan previously received the Distinguished Service Award from the Hinds County Bar Association where he also served as president.

Henegan is the vice-chair of the advisory board for the William Winter Institute of Racial Reconciliation at The University of Mississippi. Henegan served from February 1981 to January 1984 as Chief of Staff for the Office of the Governor for the State of Mississippi and was a law clerk in 1976-1977 for Honorable Charles Clark, Circuit Judge, US Court of Appeals for the Fifth Circuit.

Henegan has tried over 25 cases in state and federal court, and he has been lead appellate or amici counsel in numerous cases involving issues of first impression, appearing and arguing before the US Court of Appeals for the Federal and Fifth Circuits and the Mississippi Supreme Court, including several en banc cases.

Henegan received his BA in English and Philosophy from The University of Mississippi and a JD, with honors, from the University of Mississippi Law Center where he was editor-in-chief of the *Mississippi Law Journal*.

## CHRISTY D JONES


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Christy D Jones is chair of the pharmaceutical, medical device and healthcare industry group at Butler, Snow, O'Mara, Stevens & Cannada,. Jones's areas of emphasis include drug and medical device law, products liability law, mass torts, patent and commercial litigation.

Jones is a fellow of the American College of Trial Lawyers, in which she serves as regent, and is AV-rated by Martindale-Hubbell. Named one of the *Top 6 Product Liability Lawyers in the World* by Best of the Best Expert Guides in 2008, Jones has also been recognized by *The Best Lawyers in America*® for personal injury litigation and product liability litigation, *Chambers USA, America's Leading Lawyers for Business* for product liability (national) and litigation: general commercial, *Mid-South Super Lawyers*® for personal injury defense: products, and *Who's Who Among International Product Liability Lawyers*. In addition, Jones is a member of the American Board of Trial Advocates and fellow of both the American Bar Association and Mississippi Bar Foundation. In 2008, the Mississippi Women Lawyers Association named Jones Outstanding Mississippi Woman Lawyer.

Jones is affiliated with the Product Liability Advisory Council, The American Bar Association, Lawyers for Civil Justice, Trial Attorneys of America, the Mississippi Bar and Mississippi Defense Lawyers Association. Jones is a former chair of the Mississippi Law Institute and has previously served on the executive committee of the International Association of Defense Counsel, as chair for the Drug and Device Committee for the Defense Research Institute, and as director of the Defense Counsel Trial Academy.

Throughout her career, Jones has contributed papers and presentations to many highly respected legal publications, institutions and conferences, such as the Defense Research Institute, The American Bar Association and the National Conference of Judicial Excellence.

Recently, Jones was lead counsel for the defense in *Sabrina Brierton Johnson v Johnson & Johnson, et al.*, which was the first product liability case in connection with Children's Motrin and Stevens-Johnson Syndrome. She was also lead counsel for a second product liability case in connection with Children's Motrin and Stevens-Johnson Syndrome in New Jersey - *Kimberly Zundel, et al, v Johnson & Johnson, et al*. Both cases resulted in defense verdicts.

In addition, Jones was trial counsel in national Vioxx litigation including three New Jersey cases - *Thomas Cona, et al v Merck & Co, John McDarby v Merck & Co, and Frederick Humeston, et al v Merck & Co*, and one in Alabama - *Gary Albright v Merck & Co, et al*. All but McDarby resulted in defense verdicts.

Jones received her BA and JD with high honors from the University of Arkansas, where she also was managing editor of *The Arkansas Law Review*.

**E BARNEY ROBINSON III****BUTLER, SNOW, O'MARA, STEVENS & CANNADA PLLC**

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E Barney Robinson III is practice group leader for the commercial litigation practice group at Butler, Snow, O'Mara, Stevens & Cannada.

Robinson specializes in financial services litigation, business litigation, sales practices litigation, unfair competition and trade secret litigation, copyright, trademark and false advertising litigation, as well as director and officer liability defense.

With a unique background as a Lieutenant Colonel in the Mississippi Army National Guard and Deputy Joint Staff Judge for Joint Force Headquarters, Robinson is also a member of the Standing Committee on Local Civil Rules for the United States District Courts for the Northern and Southern Districts of Mississippi. Robinson has also been recognized by *The Best Lawyers in America*® 2010 for commercial litigation, *Chambers USA, America's Leading Lawyers for Business* for litigation: general commercial and *Mid-South Super Lawyers*® for business litigation.

In addition, Robinson is a member of the American Bar Association and its International Law Section, as well as the Defense Research Institute, Federalist Society and Mississippi Bar.

Beginning in late 1998 and continuing until late spring of 2006, Robinson defended American General Financial Services, (AGFS) and a number of its affiliates, as well as current and former personnel in approximately 98 consumer finance flipping and packing suits or arbitration proceedings, collectively involving approximately 3400 plaintiffs/claimants. The suits - which were filed across numerous counties in Mississippi and Western Tennessee, asserted sales practices claims involving the sale of credit insurance and refinancing of consumer loans.

Despite the dangerous venues involved and Mississippi's then-litigation climate, AGFS ultimately prevailed in each of the suits. Ultimately, all remaining plaintiffs whose claims had not been dismissed on dispositive motion, simply gave up and voluntarily dismissed their cases

After receiving his BA in European History *cum laude* from Washington & Lee University, Robinson went on to receive his JD *magna cum laude* from the University Mississippi and his LLM in International Law with Class I Honors from the University of Cambridge.

**LEE DAVIS THAMES****BUTLER, SNOW, O'MARA, STEVENS & CANNADA PLLC**

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Lee Davis Thames is a member of the product liability group at Butler, Snow, O'Mara, Stevens & Cannada. He focuses on drug and medical device litigation, toxic torts, product liability, commercial litigation, complex litigation and environmental liability law. With over 200 trials to verdict in state and federal courts throughout the US and in several foreign countries, he has litigated important issues in all of these practice areas.

He has served as lead trial counsel in class actions in state and federal courts and in cases before the Multi-District Litigation Panel. He is admitted to US District Courts in several states, eight of the United States Courts of Appeal and the Supreme Court of the United States. A fellow of the American College of Trial Lawyers, and a member of the Product Liability Advisory Council, he is also a fellow of the American Bar Association and of the Mississippi Bar Foundation.

Since its first edition over 25 years ago, *The Best Lawyers in America*® has recognized Lee Davis in several different litigation categories and has included him in its exclusive category of "Bet-the-Company Litigation" since it began three years ago. Recognized by *Chambers USA, America's Leading Lawyers for Business* in Litigation: General Commercial, and *Who's Who Among International Product Liability Lawyers*, he has served on the faculty of the International Association of Defense Counsel's Defense Trial Academy, and has authored numerous articles for legal publications, including a chapter in *Expert Evidence*, West, 1997, and a chapter in a PLI text on trial practice to be released in October 2009.

Serving as lead counsel in *Henley v FMC Corp.*, a chemical exposure class action case in WV, Thames' trial ended in a defense verdict recognized by the *National Law Journal* as a "Top Defense Win". As lead trial counsel in the *Gammagard* MDL litigation, he tried cases in FL and ID and resolved the remaining MDL cases spread throughout the US and Puerto Rico. He successfully defended the pulp and paper industry in the dioxin litigation, and in the recent *Accutane* Litigation, tried two cases in NJ state court. Thames also served as lead counsel in *Irrer, et al v Milacron.*, 484 F Supp.2d 677 (ED Mich. 2007); *Gibson, et al v Milacron.*; and *Babcock et al v Milacron*, successfully resolving over 400 claims in Michigan stemming from a metalworking fluids mass tort.

In addition to a full career practicing law, Lee Davis served in the Army, both on active duty and in the Army Reserve, retiring as a Brigadier and recognized as a Distinguished Member of the 502d Parachute Infantry Regiment, and found time to receive his Theology Certificate from the University of the South.