

MISSISSIPPI

Local litigation firms

Highly recommended

Baker Donelson Bearman Caldwell & Berkowitz

Bradley Arant Boulton Cummings

Brunini Grantham Grower & Hewes

Butler Snow O'Mara Stevens & Cannada

Forman Perry Watkins Krutz & Tardy

Watkins & Eager

Recommended

Copeland Cook Taylor & Bush

Mitchell McNutt & Sams

Watkins Ludlam Winter & Stennis

Wise Carter Child & Caraway

Local litigation stars

Roy Campbell III

Bradley Arant Boulton Cummings
Insurance, Products Liability

Charles Copeland

Copeland Cook Taylor & Bush
Civil Litigation, Commercial Litigation, Insurance,
Products Liability

Wayne Drinkwater

Bradley Arant Boulton Cummings
Appellate, Commercial Litigation

William Goodman III

Watkins & Eager
Commercial Litigation, Personal Injury, Products
Liability

John Henegan

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

Christy Jones

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

Walker Jones III

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

David Kaufman

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

Fred Krutz

Forman Perry Watkins Krutz & Tardy
Commercial Litigation, Mass Tort

Joe Sam Owen

Owen Galloway & Myers
Criminal Defense, Medical Malpractice, Personal
Injury, Products Liability

Charles Ozier

Wise Carter Child & Caraway
Commercial Litigation, Products Liability

Alan Perry

Forman Perry Watkins Krutz & Tardy
Antitrust, Appellate, Commercial Litigation,
Insurance, Professional Liability

Keith Raulston

Watkins Ludlam Winter & Stennis
Commercial Litigation, Insurance, Products Liability,
Real Estate, Workers Compensation

William Ray

Watkins & Eager
Banking, Commercial Litigation, Insurance, Products
Liability

William Reed

Baker Donelson Bearman Caldwell & Berkowitz
Class Actions, Insurance, Products Liability

Orlando Richmond

Butler Snow O'Mara Stevens & Cannada
Medical Liability, Personal Injury, Products Liability

Barney Robinson III

Butler Snow O'Mara Stevens & Cannada
Commercial Litigation, Intellectual Property

LF Sams, Jr

Mitchell McNutt & Sams
Commercial Litigation, Products Liability

Christopher Shapley

Brunini Grantham Grower & Hewes
Appellate, Commercial Litigation, Environmental,
Mass Torts

Paul Stephenson III

Watkins & Eager
Appellate, Class Actions, Commercial Litigation, Oil
and Gas

Thomas Tardy III

Forman Perry Watkins Krutz & Tardy
Environmental, Products Liability

Lee Davis Thames

Butler Snow O'Mara Stevens & Cannada
Commercial Litigation, Mass Tort, Products Liability

Stephen Thomas

Bradley Arant Boulton Cummings
Commercial Litigation, Personal Injury, Products
Liability

Wendell Trapp, Jr

Mitchell McNutt & Sams
Civil Litigation, Commercial Litigation, Insurance

Michael Ulmer

Watkins & Eager
Commercial Litigation, Mass Tort, Products Liability

Michael Wallace

Wise Carter Child & Caraway
Appellate, Commercial Litigation

Walter Watkins, Jr

Forman Perry Watkins Krutz & Tardy
Environmental, Products Liability

Scott Welch

Baker Donelson Bearman Caldwell & Berkowitz
Civil Litigation, Commercial Litigation, Insurance,
Products Liability

John Wheeler

Mitchell McNutt & Sams
Professional Liability, Products Liability



Future stars

Jason Bush
Baker Donelson Bearman Caldwell & Berkowitz

Marcy Croft
Forman Perry Watkins Krutz & Tardy

Margaret Oertling Cupples
Bradley Arant Boulton Cummings

Edwin Gault, Jr
Forman Perry Watkins Krutz & Tardy

Chris Massenburg
Swetman Baxter Massenburg

Bradford Ray
Watkins Ludlam Winter & Stennis

Stephen Spencer
Mitchell McNutt & Sams

Kari Sutherland
Butler Snow O'Mara Stevens & Cannada

Phillip Sykes
Forman Perry Watkins Krutz & Tardy



Mississippi

Following the tort reform in 2004 that substantially limited putative and non-economic damages, the legal environment improved for defendants, significantly changing the way plaintiffs thought about bringing cases. As a result, Mississippi has seen a reduction in fraudulent claims and a slowing of litigation in general. The BP oil spill has not created as much litigation as expected, with government-appointed administrator Kenneth Feinberg has taken control of the compensation fund.

Highly recommended firms

Baker Donelson Bearman Caldwell & Berkowitz

Baker Donelson Bearman Caldwell & Berkowitz provides client with 560 lawyers in 16 offices, mostly across the South, working in over 30 practice areas. Founded in 1888 in Tennessee, the firm opened its Jackson office in 1995, where it is known for its products liability, environmental, commercial, real estate and employment practices.

Walker Jones is known for handling products liability defense for major manufacturers, insurance defense, as well as his appellate practice. “Bill Jones knows his way around a courtroom,” says a competitor. William Reed concentrates his practice on class action, products liability, insurance and commercial litigation, trying over 100 commercial and tort cases in federal and state courts in and has handled appeals in Mississippi and four federal circuits. “William Reed is a very smart guy,” says a peer. “He is in the category you consider for a big case.” Scott Welch focuses his practice on personal injury, business tort, commercial, insurance, transportation and products liability litigation. “Scott Welch is excellent in the courtroom,” says a peer. “People like him and respect him.”

Bradley Arant Boult Cummings

Bradley Arant Boult Cummings carries over 370 attorneys serving individuals and emerging businesses, as well as established regional, national and international companies. With offices in Alabama, Mississippi, North Carolina, Tennessee and the District of Columbia, Bradley Arant is one of the largest firms in the region, particularly focusing on construction, commercial, financial services, health care, intellectual property, and real estate litigation. The Jackson office carries 25 lawyers.

With over 34 years’ experience, Roy Campbell handles insurance and products liability matters, both at the trial and appellate levels. He has been lead counsel in over 100 jury trials and leads the firm’s products liability and personal injury group. Wayne Drinkwater handles major commercial litigation and appeals. He has handled over 60 appeals, arguing more than 30 in state and federal courts across the US.

“Wayne is a splendid lawyer and a good appellate litigator,” says a peer. “I would not hesitate to hire him.” Drinkwater represents HealthSouth in litigations against its former CEO, investment bank and outside auditor. HealthSouth received a \$100 million settlement from its former investment bank and a \$2.8 billion judgment against its former CEO. The matter against its former outside auditor is ongoing. Stephen Thomas has tried well over 100 cases to conclusion and has tried cases in 59 of Mississippi’s 82 counties and in 16 states.

“‘Christy Jones [at Butler Snow] is real serious, but a really good lawyer,’ says a competitor. ‘She is a top rainmaker there and is an excellent lawyer.’”

Brunini Grantham Grower & Hewes

Brunini Grantham Grower & Hewes primarily serves business clients, including a number of *Fortune 500* companies and other significant Mississippi companies, including the nation’s largest privately held wireless company, Mississippi’s largest health insurer, and one of the state’s largest banks. The firm has three offices in Mississippi; Jackson, Columbus and Biloxi, focusing on insurance, labor and employment, bankruptcy and creditors’ rights, and white-collar crime litigation. Founded over a century ago, the firm has almost 60 lawyers working in Mississippi.

David Kaufman has extensive experience handling complex commercial, products liability and mass tort cases in state and federal trial and appellate courts, including successfully defending welding rod manufacturers The BOC Group, Lincoln Electric, Hobart and ESAB in the first welding fume exposure lawsuits tried in Arkansas and West Virginia. “David Kaufman has a good presence and is a good lawyer,” says a competitor. Christopher Shapley focuses his practice on commercial, mass tort, environmental, insurance and products liability matters. He recently secured summary judgment for a client against claims that exposure to chemicals caused the plaintiffs cancer. The firm

successfully argued that since the claim was made more than three years after discovery of the cancer, it exceeded the statute of limitations. The Mississippi Supreme Court affirmed the decision. “Chris Shapley is smart, has a good presence in the courtroom and doesn’t get rattled,” says a competitor.

Butler Snow O’Mara Stevens & Cannada

With over 170 lawyers working in four offices across the South, Butler Snow O’Mara Stevens & Cannada offers appellate, commercial, employment and investigations litigation services, but is particularly noted for its products liability practice. The firm has been involved in the defense of the drug Accutane, winning the first defense verdicts in the consolidated Accutane proceedings in New Jersey state court.

Orlando Richmond focuses on products liability, particularly drug and medical device, and medical liability defense, and was involved in the New Jersey Accutane case. Christy Jones has a nationally recognized products liability practice and focuses on drug and medical device, mass tort and professional liability matters. “Christy Jones is real serious, but a really good lawyer,” says

a competitor. “She is a top rainmaker there and is an excellent lawyer.” John Henegan handles antitrust, intellectual property, commercial, media defense and telecommunications matters. “John Henegan is an erudite guy,” says a peer. Lee Davis Thames handles products liability matters, including drug and medical defense, class actions, and environmental liability. He has tried over 200 trials to verdict in 31 states and the District of Columbia, as well as several trials in countries in Europe and the Middle East. “Lee Davis Thames has to be 75, but knowing him, he’s still working,” says a competitor. “He is one of the best.”

Forman Perry Watkins Krutz & Tardy

Forman Perry Watkins Krutz & Tardy was formed in 1986 to effectively handle the way tort filings were changing the legal landscape. Beginning with five lawyers in one office, the firm has grown to over 85 lawyers working in offices in Jackson, Dallas, Houston, New Orleans, Denver and Detroit. The firm handles both defense and plaintiffs matters, focused on appellate, antitrust, commercial, drug and medical devices, insurance, personal injury, products liability, and professional liability.

Fred Krutz has tried more than 50 cases to verdict, primarily focusing on asbestos, benzene, silica, products liability and personal injury matters. “Fred Krutz brings

an innovative approach and an ability to assume a leadership position in any litigation,” says a client. Noted for his appellate practice, **Alan Perry** recently represented Frisby Aerospace in the largest trade secrets case in Mississippi history, obtaining a dismissal of all claims of the Eaton Corporation claiming that six engineers hired by Frisby from Eaton had misappropriated trade secrets worth hundreds of millions of dollars. The case is being appealed. “Alan Perry is a bright as they come,” says a competitor. **Thomas Tardy III** and **Walter Watkins, Jr** serve as defense counsel for over 45 clients in the asbestos multi-district litigation court in the United States District Court for the Eastern District of Pennsylvania. The plaintiffs claim they suffer illnesses due to asbestos exposure. Former Perry lawyers have secured the dismissals of tens of thousands of cases on behalf of their by pressuring plaintiffs’ firms to produce medical records supporting their cases. “Tom Tardy is a national asbestos lawyer,” says a peer. “He is a strategic thinker.”

Watkins & Eager

Established in 1895, Watkins & Eager offers a full array of litigation services and is noted for its insurance, products liability and commercial work. The firm represents numerous industries and has handled matters for clients like ExxonMobil, Chevron, General Motors and Ford. The firm has over 70 lawyers in its office in Jackson. “The best firm in the state might be Watkins & Eager,” says a competitor. “They have really fine litigators in products liability and insurance.”

William Goodman III defends pharmaceutical and chemical companies in complex commercial and personal injury

litigations. “Will Goodman has represented a lot of pharmaceutical companies and is a good lawyer,” says a peer. “I would turn to him if I had a client in trouble.” **William Ray** has handled commercial, securities insurance, ERISA and employee benefit claims. **Paul Stephenson III** has experience with complex class actions, oil and gas controversies, and constitutional law principally related to the Fourteenth Amendment. “Paul Stephenson is a real good guy,” says a competitor. “He is honorable, a good lawyer, a good writer, one of the top guys.” **Michael Ulmer** handles products liability defense, primarily in cases involving automotive, heavy equipment, tire, football helmets, tobacco and welding matters. “Mike Ulmer is one of the better lawyers,” says a competitor. “He is a good, smart, tough, tenacious lawyer.”

Recommended firms

Copeland Cook Taylor & Bush

Established in 1985, Copeland Cook Taylor & Bush now has over 80 lawyers and offices in Ridgeland, Biloxi and Hattiesburg providing service to individuals, small businesses and large corporations. The firm specializes in oil and gas, insurance, and tax litigation. **Charles Copeland’s** clients include insurance companies, manufacturers, banks, municipalities, trade groups, individuals and civic organizations. He has tried cases in the state and federal courts in Mississippi since 1975. “Charles Copeland is an excellent insurance and products liability lawyer,” says a competitor.

Mitchell McNutt & Sams

Founded in Lee County in 1904, Mitchell McNutt & Sams has grown to include 30 lawyers and offices in Tupelo, Corinth,

Columbus, Oxford and Memphis. **LF Sams, Jr** focuses on commercial, products liability and professional liability matters. “Sandy Sams is a splendid lawyer,” says a competitor. **Wendell Trapp, Jr** represents government agencies and insurance companies. **John Wheeler** chairs the firm’s litigation group and handles medical and professional liability claims, products liability, and personal injury matters. “John Wheeler has a good reputation,” says a peer.

Watkins Ludlam Winter & Stennis

Founded in 1905, Watkins Ludlam Winter & Stennis has over 75 lawyers in its offices in Jackson, Gulfport and Memphis. The firm handles matters arising from the construction, finance and development, financial, gaming and resorts, health care, manufacturing, and real estate industries. **Keith Raulston** has practiced law in Mississippi since 1980, focusing on commercial, insurance, products liability, personal injury, workers compensation and real estate litigation.

Wise Carter Child & Caraway

With roots stretching back to 1883, Wise Carter Child & Caraway has deep roots in Mississippi litigation. The firm now has over 50 lawyers in Jackson, Biloxi and Hattiesburg handling commercial, environmental, insurance, personal injury, products liability, health care, medical malpractice, employment and railroad litigation. **Charles Ozier** focuses on commercial, products liability and railroad matters. “Charlie Ozier is a very good railroad lawyer,” says a peer. **Michael Wallace** handles appellate, commercial and public utilities matters. “Mike Wallace is very good and well regarded,” says a competitor.

