Forman Watkins & Krutz LLP



James "Jake" L. Banks IV

Partner

Jake.Banks@formanwatkins.com

Jackson Office Phone: 601-974-8713 Fax: 601-960-8613

To Jake, the most important part of being an advocate is communication. Jake believes that no matter how busy the case gets, the client deserves complete communication with the person responsible for their peace of mind. Fueled by the desire to solve problems, Jake enjoys digging through the details to find the right answer to litigation's diverse problems. Jake believes time is the most precious thing we have: that it should be managed carefully and never wasted. Clients can expect trustworthy work from such a dedicated, communicative lawyer who doubles as an avid golfer and loving father.

Education

- University of Mississippi School of Law, J.D., magna cum laude
- The College of Charleston, B.A. Political Science, magna cum laude

Bar Admissions

- Mississippi, 2006
- Florida, 2022
- U.S. District Courts for Northern and Southern Districts of Mississippi
- U.S. Court of Appeals for the Fifth Circuit

Important Litigation Involvement

• Litigated hundreds of personal injury lawsuits, ranging from motor vehicle accidents to toxic torts. Earned summary judgment for clients in many of these cases, which were affirmed on appeal. And when suits could not be settled or resolved via dispositive motion practice, Jake tried such suits, both as lead and second-chair

counsel, earning three defense verdicts.

• Regional representation of national retailer in Telephone Consumer Protection Act (TCPA) and Fair Credit Reporting Act (FCRA) litigation.

Professional Recognition

- Martindale-Hubbell® Preeminent AV® Peer Review Rating
- Selected to *The Best Lawyers in America*® (2024) Commercial Litigation, Personal Injury Litigation Defendants and Product Liability Litigation Defendants
- Selected to Mid-South Rising Stars (2015-2019)



Organization/Committee Memberships

- The Mississippi Bar, Young Lawyers Division, Member of Community Service and Pro Bono Committees
- Phoenix Club of Jackson

Law School Honors & Awards

- Outstanding Student Award for Torts
- Member of Honor Council

Previous Experience

• Previously a partner with a regional law firm, gaining ten years of experience handling defense litigation, including medical malpractice, products liability, automobile liability, premises liability, insurer bad faith, appellate practice, constitutional law, and transactional law

Practice Areas

- Asbestos
- Appellate
- Insurance Coverage & Bad Faith Defense
- Personal Injury

- Premises Liability
- Product Liability
- Silica

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