

FormanWatkins

Forman Watkins & Krutz LLP



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Partner

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Fueled by challenge and change, Mitch never hesitates to go outside of his comfort zone. Whether that means taking on a difficult case, studying graphic design as an undergraduate to stretch and broaden himself and his abilities, or shifting his legal career from New York to Jackson, Mitch never takes the easy way out. His clients can be sure that he will apply the same creative communication, rigorous curiosity, and work ethic toward their cases.

Mitch is a lawyer who cares deeply about people. That affection is shown first and foremost in his family, a wife and two daughters and a baby boy, yet another wonderful challenge! Beyond his family, Mitch has a love for community and fellowship, and he provides his full attention to his clients, forming personal relationships and using every possible asset to offer them quick, creative solutions. Long hours writing briefs or collaborating with his coworkers are all worth it for Mitch as he strives to offer his clients innovative and stable solutions with a broader impact than the immediate case.

Education

- University of Virginia School of Law, J.D.
- Auburn University, B.S. Business Administration
- Auburn University, B.A. Graphic Design

Bar Admissions

- New York, 2011
- Mississippi, 2015
- Alabama, 2021
- U.S. District Court for the Northern District of Alabama
- U.S. District Courts for the Northern and Southern Districts of Mississippi
- U.S. District Courts for the Northern and Southern Districts of New York
- U.S. District Court for the Western District of Wisconsin
- U.S. Court of Appeals for the Fifth Circuit
- U.S. Court of Appeals for the Seventh Circuit

Clerkship

- Judicial Law Clerk to the Honorable Rhesa H. Barksdale, U.S. Court of Appeals for the Fifth Circuit

Important Litigation Involvement

- Currently serves as national coordinating counsel for asbestos claims of two Fortune 500 companies, litigating product and premises liability claims, developing national and jurisdictional defense strategy, and negotiating settlements
- Regularly serves as plaintiff's counsel in business litigation disputes across the country resulting in six- and seven-figure recoveries, e.g., *Seven Seas Techs., Inc. v. Infinite Computer Solutions, Inc.*, (S.D. Miss.) and *PF2 EIS LLC v. Rush Health Systems, Inc.* (S.D. Miss)
- Drafted appellate briefing, resulting in affirmed grant of summary judgment for residential management company facing personal injury and breach of contract claims; *Yarbrough v. Hunt Southern Group, LLC*, 836 F. App'x 238 (5th Cir. 2020)
- Drafted summary judgment and dispositive motion briefing, resulting in grant of summary judgment for alleged environmental and household exposure claims; *Kilty v. Weyerhaeuser Co.*, 317 F. Supp. 3d 1027 (W.D. Wis. June 8, 2018)
- Drafted appellate briefing, resulting in affirmed expert exclusion and grant of summary judgment for alleged environmental claims; *Pecher v. Owens-Illinois, Inc.*, 859 F.3d 396 (7th Cir. 2017)
- Drafted Daubert and summary judgment briefing and assisted in cross-examination of experts, resulting in exclusion of causation expert and grant of summary judgment for alleged environmental exposure claims; *Boyer v. Weyerhaeuser Co.*, 2016 WL 705233 (W.D. Wis. Feb. 19, 2016)
- Drafted appellate briefing, resulting in affirmed dismissal of counseling malpractice claim; Alabama Supreme Court, *McElveen v. Family Services Center* (2015)
- Represented head coach and assistant coaches at multiple NCAA institutions in investigations, factual development during an NCAA investigation, preparation for NCAA interviews, drafted involved individual responses to notices of allegation, and appeared before NCAA Committee on Infractions
- Served as member of litigation team in largest bankruptcy in U.S. history, representing Chapter 11 Estate of investment bank in adversary proceedings against other international financial institutions, drafting dispositive motions, taking and defending depositions, and developing expert reports; Southern District of New York

Professional Recognition

- Selected to Mid-South Super Lawyers (2022-2023)
- *The Best Lawyers in America*® (2023): Commercial Litigation
- *The Best Lawyers in America*®: Ones to Watch (2021-2022): Commercial Litigation, Mass Tort Litigation/Class Actions – Defendants, Product Liability Litigation – Defendants
- Selected to Super Lawyers Mid-South Rising Stars (2019-2021)
- FormanWatkins Pro Bono Star, 2020-2021
- Selected as one of *Mississippi Business Journal's* 2019 Leaders in Law



Organization/Committee Memberships

- Mississippi Bar, Young Lawyers Division
- DRI: The Voice of the Defense Bar
- Jackson Public Schools - Bond Oversight Committee (Ward 7 representative)
- Member of the FormanWatkins Pro Bono Committee and Recruiting Committee

Speaking Engagements

- "Taking on a Pro Bono Asylum Case," PLI's Pursuing Justice: The Pro Bono Files podcast, October 2021. Listen [here](#).
- "The Science that Scares Us and How it Can Help Us," FormanWatkins Asbestos Summit, May 2019, New Orleans, Louisiana
- "Hot Jurisdictions - Which way is the Wind Blowing?" FormanWatkins Asbestos Summit, May 2017, New Orleans, Louisiana
- "Environmental and Household Exposures," HarrisMartin Asbestos Litigation Conference: Talc and Other Unique Exposures, May 2016, Charleston, South Carolina

Publications

- "Direct-to-Consumer 3D Printing Protection: Searching for a Predictable Liability Regime," *For the Defense*, DRI, Vol. 58, No. 11 (November 2016)
- "Mississippi Issues Shelter-in-Place Order: What You Need To Know" (April 2020)
- "COVID-19: Do I Have a Business Interruption Insurance Claim?" (April 2020)

Law School Honors & Awards

- Editor-in-Chief, Virginia Sports & Entertainment Law Journal
- President, Virginia Employment and Labor Law Association
- Pro Bono Challenge Recipient

Practice Areas

- Appellate
- Commercial Litigation
- Asbestos
- Environmental Litigation
- Indemnity & Additional Insurance
- Product Liability
- Premises Liability
- NCAA Compliance