

# FormanWatkins

Forman Watkins & Krutz LLP



## Vernon M. McFarland

### Partner

[vernon.mcfarland@formanwatkins.com](mailto:vernon.mcfarland@formanwatkins.com)

Jackson Office

Phone: 601-969-4299

Fax: 601-960-8613

With an engineering background, Vernon sees the world primarily in black and white, but one thing is abundantly clear: his focus is always on the client. Vernon's client-centric focus offers honest, personal solutions catered to each client's specific needs. Vernon works within the boundaries of the client's goals to craft innovative solutions, making him a valuable asset in any defense. Vernon's analytical frame of mind is solution-oriented, allowing him to boil down the facts of each matter into options the client trusts will be effective in achieving their goals. Ultimately, clients can expect to be valued when working with Vernon, as they will be met with genuine candor and a sincere interest in their perspective and overall success.

## Education

- University of Mississippi School of Law, J.D.
- Mississippi State University, B.S. Industrial & Systems Engineering

## Bar Admissions

- Mississippi

- Montana
- Illinois
- Missouri
- U.S. District Court for the District of Montana
- U.S. District Court for the Eastern District of Missouri

## Important Litigation Involvement

- Successfully defeated class action allegations against a Fortune 100 company.
- Jurisdictional attorney responsible for the day-to-day management of asbestos litigation for a Fortune 100 company.
- Obtained directed defense verdict on issues of emotional distress, punitive damages and speculative compensatory damages in legal malpractice action in the Circuit Court for Holmes County, MS.
- Obtained dismissal for Fortune 100 company based on failure to prosecute.
- Obtained jury verdict for plaintiff in personal injury matter.

## Professional Recognition

- *The Best Lawyers in America®*: Ones to Watch, 2021: Commercial Litigation, Mass Tort Litigation/Class Actions – Defendants, Product Liability Litigation – Defendants
- Selected to Mid-South Rising Stars (2014-2023)
- FormanWatkins Pro Bono Star, 2020-2021
- Jackson Young Lawyers, Pro Bono Service Award recipient (2018)
- National Black Lawyers, Top 40 Under 40 (2015)





## Organization/Committee Memberships

- The Mississippi Bar
- Jackson Young Lawyers
- Magnolia Bar Association
- DRI: The Voice of the Defense Bar
- Bar Association of the Fifth Federal Circuit
- Leadership Greater Jackson, Class of 2016-2017
- 100 Black Men of Jackson
- National Bar Association

## Speaking Engagements

- "Law Student Forum," DRI Diversity for Success, Panelist, New Orleans, Louisiana (June 2021)
- "Case Closed! Now What? A Closer Look at Post-Verdict and Post-Settlement Medicare Obligations," Magnolia Bar Annual Conference, Biloxi, Mississippi (May 2015)

## Previous Experience

- University of Mississippi Elder Law Clinic

## Practice Areas

- Asbestos
- Environmental Litigation
- National Coordinating Counsel
- Commercial Litigation
- Labor & Employment Law
- Product Liability

- Insurance Coverage & Bad Faith Defense
- Premises Liability
- Class Actions
- Personal Injury
- Professional Liability