

Abbott, Abraham, Fuller, and Gray Recognized as "Top Lawyers" by New Orleans Magazine

Forman Watkins & Krutz LLP is proud to announce that Charles Abbott, Michael Abraham, Melissa Fuller, and Tim Gray were selected to the 2021 Top Lawyers list by *New Orleans Magazine*! *New Orleans Magazine* presents the Top Lawyers list annually and honorees were selected via a voting system, in which voting was open to all licensed attorneys in New Orleans. The voters were asked which attorney, other than themselves, they would recommend in the New Orleans area, and each attorney was allowed to recommend up to three colleagues in each given legal specialty. Once the online nominations were complete, each nominee was carefully evaluated on the basis of the survey results, the legitimacy of their license, and their current standing with the State Bar Association of Louisiana. Attorneys who received the highest number of votes in each specialty are reflected in the Top Lawyers list.

More about our Top Lawyers:

Charles is a partner in the New Orleans office with an extremely diverse legal practice. He is regularly retained as lead counsel or co-counsel on significant, high-dollar commercial, contractual, tort, admiralty/maritime, products liability, construction, and toxic tort cases pending in both federal and state courts throughout Louisiana, Mississippi, and Texas. In addition to his role as trial counsel, Mr. Abbott also serves as national coordinating counsel on behalf of a Fortune 100 client in connection with their silica and benzene exposure litigation. Charles is the co-chair of the Firm's Marketing Committee and a member of the Firm's Technology Committee. He is honored by rankings in Martindale-Hubbell® AV Preeminent®, *The Best Lawyers in America*®, and *Top Lawyer* by New Orleans Magazine. He was also selected to Louisiana Super Lawyers, including Top 50 in New Orleans and Top 50 in Louisiana, as well as New Orleans City Business "Leadership in Law" Class - Hall of Fame Honoree.

Michael is driven by the diverse challenges of the legal issues that come across his desk. He handles a demanding, complex civil litigation caseload throughout Louisiana in state and federal courts, specializing in the defense of toxic torts involving occupational exposures to toxins, including asbestos and benzene, product liability, and premise liability. He is recognized by *The Best Lawyers in America*® (2019-2022), *Top Lawyer* New Orleans Magazine (2021) and Martindale-Hubbell® as AV™ Preeminent Peer Rated.

Melissa, a partner in the New Orleans office, represents a variety of Fortune 100 and Fortune 500 clients in civil

litigation cases throughout Louisiana. With her practice focused in toxic tort litigation, Melissa serves as national coordinating counsel on behalf of a Fortune 500 client in connection with its asbestos litigation. As a member of the Firm's Recruiting Committee, Melissa spearheads the New Orleans office's recruiting efforts in all four Louisiana law schools. Melissa's dedication to her practice has been recognized by *Best Lawyers in America*® and Louisiana Super Lawyers.

Tim enjoys a practice that presents new and varied challenges and opportunities. He is national trial counsel to several companies for their toxic tort litigation and has tried cases in several states in that capacity. He also represents local companies in commercial transactions and disputes arising therefrom. In the New Orleans Community Tim has served on multiple public charter school boards. Tim is honored by rankings in Martindale-Hubbell® AV Preeminent®, *The Best Lawyers in America*® since 2015, and Louisiana Super Lawyers. He was also selected to New Orleans CityBusiness Leadership in Law list and rated a "Top Lawyer" New Orleans Magazine (2019 & 2021).