

FormanWatkins

Forman Watkins & Krutz LLP



Autumn T. Smith

Associate

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Autumn's early days as an Air Force ROTC cadet at Clemson University instilled in her a relentless work ethic and a passion for perfection. Commissioned as a Second Lieutenant in the Air Force, she set her sights on a promising career as an Air Traffic Controller, however, an unforeseen government shutdown deterred those plans and Autumn shifted gears to pursue a career in law. Intrigued by the intricacies of the legal system and driven by her innate competitive spirit, Autumn excelled in law school, where her blend of self discipline, strategic thinking, and unwavering determination served her well. Never one to back down from a challenge, Autumn is a motivated, persistent attorney fascinated both by the ever-changing nature of law as well as the diversity of the cases and people that come into her office. She works hard to become an expert in whatever case she is working and takes the time to gain an in-depth understanding of her clients and their goals. Ultimately, Autumn offers extensive knowledge, innovative solutions and a warm personality to her clients, making her a vital asset to the FormanWatkins team.

Education

- University of Mississippi School of Law, J.D., *cum laude*
- Clemson University, B.S. Psychology with a Minor in Industrial Engineering, *cum laude*

Bar Admissions

- Mississippi
- Louisiana
- Alabama
- The United States Court of Appeals for the Fifth Circuit

Clerkship

- Judicial Clerk to the Honorable Michael P. Mills, U.S. District Court for the Northern District of Mississippi

Litigation Involvement

- Lead trial counsel on an eight day jury trial in Louisiana federal court, which resulted in a defense verdict for Firm client.
- Successfully excluded causation expert resulting in summary judgment in Florida federal court for Fortune 500 client.
- Successfully excluded causation expert resulting in summary judgment in Mississippi federal court for Fortune 500 client.
- Defended an energy client as lead appellate brief writer in appeal asking the Fifth Circuit to reverse a Mississippi District Court's grant of summary judgment in a inverse condemnation Takings claim.

Professional Recognition

- *The Best Lawyers in America*® Ones to Watch (2024-2026): Appellate Practice, Commercial Litigation, Construction Law, Mass Tort Litigation/Class Actions - Defendants, Personal Injury Litigation
- Selected to Mid-South Rising Stars (2023-2025)
- FormanWatkins Pro Bono Star (2024-2025)





Organization/Committee Memberships

- Professional Liability Defense Federation
- Mississippi Bar Young Lawyers, Division Law School Relations Committee
- Jackson Young Lawyers
- 2022-2023 Leadership Mississippi Bar

Publications

- "Oysters Are not Raisins": Horne and the Improper Synthesis of the Public and Wildlife Trusts; The Arizona Journal of Environmental Law and Policy, March 2016
- Beware of Attack Geese: Court Considers Liability in Pet Goose Attack; Mississippi - Alabama Sea Grant Legal Center WaterLog, August 2015
- MR-GO Flooding Lawsuit: The Final Chapter; Mississippi - Alabama Sea Grant Legal Center WaterLog, August 2015 (continues below)
- Court Weighs in on Dispute over Dock Length; The SandBar, July 2015
- Court Questions FWS's Authority to Restrict Interstate Transport of Injurious Species; The SandBar · July 2015
- (co-authored) Electronic Health Records: The Benefits and Consequences Experienced by Healthcare Providers at a University Health Clinic; International Symposium on Human Factors and Ergonomics in Health Care, March 2013

Pro Bono & Community Service

- Director of Harm Reduction for Sigma Kappa Sorority - Responsible for crisis management support to 115 collegiate sorority chapters, training, supervision and mentoring of eight district-based Risk Management

Coordinators, and drafting best practices, policies, and procedures for accountability programs and event management to reduce liability.

- Board Member, LOHO Homeowners Association.
- Represent Indigent Mississippians in Direct Appeals of their Convictions before the Mississippi Supreme Court and Mississippi Court of Appeals.
- Volunteer in partnership with the Mississippi Volunteer Lawyers Project.

Law School Honors & Awards

- Mississippi Law Journal, Executive Board - Volume 86

Previous Experience

- Autumn defended toxic tort, talc, asbestos, professional liability, personal injury, construction defect, and trucking cases in Mississippi and Louisiana.

Practice Areas

- Appellate
- Asbestos
- Class Actions
- Commercial Litigation
- Construction
- Insurance Coverage & Bad Faith Defense
- Labor & Employment
- Personal Injury
- Premises Liability
- Product Liability