ForemanWatkins
Forman Watkins & Krutz LLP

Mary Clift Abdalla

Partner

mary.abdalla@formanwatkins.com

Jackson Office
Phone: 601-973-5967
Fax: 601-960-8613

Going straight into law school from undergrad, Mary Clift was determined to immediately exercise her love for reading and writing, as well as her intense work ethic. Now, as an attorney and a mother, each day is an opportunity for her to do both. Creative and hard-working, Mary Clift is driven by the daily challenges that come with practicing law. To her, work is an opportunity to learn, each day offering her a chance to work harder and be better. As an avid football fan, Mary Clift understands the importance of strategy and approaches her cases with innovative concepts and solutions. When working with Mary Clift, a client can expect to receive exceptional effort from a lawyer who counts every day as a blessing and takes great delight in working hard for her family and her clients.

Education

- University of Mississippi School of Law, J.D., *cum laude*

- University of Mississippi, B.A., *summa cum laude*

Bar Admissions

- Arkansas, 2007
- Mississippi, 2008
- U.S. District Courts for Northern and Southern Districts of Mississippi
- U.S. District Courts for the Eastern and Western Districts of Arkansas

Important Litigation Involvement

- Represented a large premises defendant before the South Carolina Workers' Compensation Commission against claims that hundreds of former plant workers developed neurological, cardiovascular, and/or pulmonary injuries as a result of alleged workplace chemical exposure. After a two week trial, our team received extremely favorable rulings. The Commissioner completely zeroed out the claimants in nine of the thirteen cases and found another defendant completely responsible for a tenth case. As cases were pending on appeal, the parties reached a global settlement for the entire inventory of hundreds of pending claims.
- Represented a commercial real estate company in federal court in a case involving the flooding of a shopping center and involving a FEMA Letter of Map Revision. Plaintiff sought compensation related to the flood damage and for the store's closure for 10 months in the amount of approximately $2.5 million. Our team filed a motion for summary judgment, which was granted by the Court; all claims against the client were dismissed, and subsequently the client obtained an award of a portion of costs and fees.

Professional Recognition

- A/V Preeminent Rated by Martindale-Hubbell (2023)
- Selected to Mid-South Super Lawyers (2023-2025)
- Selected to *The Best Lawyers in America*® (2019-2027): Product Liability Litigation - Defendants and Mass Tort Litigation/Class Actions - Defendants
- Selected to Mid-South Rising Stars (2015-2022)
- Top 10 Honoree, Top 50 Under 40 Business Leader, *Mississippi Business Journal* (2020)
- Top 50 Leading Lawyers selected by the *Mississippi Business Journal*
- FormanWatkins Pro Bono Star

Organization/Committee Memberships

- The Mississippi Bar
- Arkansas Bar Association
- Capital Area Bar Association
- The Trial Network

Speaking Engagements

- "Suspicious Minds: The Practical Effects of Daimler and Other Jurisdictional Rulings," Network of Trial Law Firms, October 2018, San Mateo, California

Pro Bono & Community Service

- Friends of Children's Hospital, Board of Directors
- McClean Fletcher Grief Center, volunteer
- Mississippi Museum of Art, Spring Gala planning committee
- Junior League of Jackson
- Habitat for Humanity, volunteer

Law School Honors & Awards

- Mississippi Law Journal - Membership Director
- Moot Court Board - Mayes Inn
- Moot Court Trial Advocacy Competition Winner
- American Jurisprudence Award - Prosecutorial Function
- Phi Delta Phi

Practice Areas

- Asbestos
- Benzene
- Product Liability

- Workers' Compensation