

FormanWatkins

Forman Watkins & Krutz LLP



Spencer Ritchie

Partner

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Spencer Ritchie has one goal: to help his clients navigate their way through the legal system in an efficient manner and get them back to doing what they do best. In working toward this goal Spencer uses his desire for excellence and his strong attention to detail to come up with creative solutions for each of his clients, while also being able to scale back and see the big picture of the case. With a love for reading and writing, Spencer offers his clients quality, personalized work, backed up by over six years of federal and state political experience, two federal judicial clerkships, and as an associate at a major regional law firm. Spencer ultimately decided to become a lawyer because he desired to be a part of a profession with the capacity to help improve society, therefore clients will find in Spencer not only a love for books, sports, politics, and the law, but compassion for his clients' business and livelihoods.

Education

- University of Mississippi School of Law, J.D.
- Texas Tech University, B.A., History

Bar Admissions

- Mississippi, 2012
- U.S. District Courts for Northern and Southern Districts of Mississippi
- U.S. District Court for the Eastern District of Louisiana
- U.S. Court of Appeals for the Fourth Circuit
- U.S. Court of Appeals for the Fifth Circuit

Clerkships

- Law Clerk to the Honorable Rhesa H. Barksdale, U.S. Court of Appeals for the Fifth Circuit
- Law Clerk to the Honorable Richard A. Schell, U.S. District Court for the Eastern District of Texas

Important Litigation Involvement

- Appellate counsel on trial team defending Fortune 500 company in asbestos exposure suit, Mobile County Alabama Circuit Court, 2022
- Successful reversal in appeal before the U.S. Department of Labor, Administrative Review Board, 2022
- Successful Motion to Dismiss Title VII Suit, Federal Court Mississippi, 2021
- Brief Writer, Fourth Circuit, *Lightfoot v. Weyerhaeuser Co., et al*, 5 F.5th 484 (4th Cir. 2021) (See Bloomberg Law article)
- Election Contest Trial, Lowndes County Mississippi Circuit Court, 2021
- Counsel to non-profit organization in filing amicus brief with the Mississippi Supreme Court, 2021 (See Law360 article)
- Counsel to Mississippi campaign supporting Initiative 65 for medical marijuana, 2020
- Chemical Spill Trial, Federal Court Mississippi, *Burroughs Diesel v. Baker Hughes*, 2020
- Brief Writer, Fifth Circuit, *Chevron Oronite v. Jacobs Field Services*, 951 F.3d 219 (5th Cir. 2020) (See Law360 article)
- Election Contest Trial, Monroe County Mississippi Circuit Court, 2020
- Election Contest Trial, Madison County Mississippi Circuit Court, 2020
- Bench Trial verdict for plaintiff, contractual indemnity claim, Louisiana Federal Court, *Chevron v. Jacobs*, 2019
- Successful Motion To Dismiss CERCLA claim, Federal Court Mississippi, *Burroughs Diesel v. Baker Hughes*, 2018

Professional Recognition

- *The Best Lawyers in America®*: Ones to Watch, (2021-2024): Commercial Litigation, Litigation - Labor and Employment, Product Liability Litigation – Defendants
- Selected to Mid-South Super Lawyers (2023)
- Selected to Mid-South Rising Stars (2014, 2019-2021)
- FormanWatkins Pro Bono Star (2020-2022)
- Capitol Area Bar Association Pro Bono Award (2015)



Organization/Committee Memberships

- Mississippi Ethics Commission, Member (2020-2024)
- Downtown Jackson Partners, Advisory Council
- Mississippi Secretary of State Election Law Reform Study Group
- United States Election Assistance Commission, Board of Advisors
- Hinds County Republican Party Executive Committee, Chairman
- Jackson Friends of the Library (JFOL), Treasurer
- Tate Reeves for Governor, Hinds County Co-Chair (2019)

Speaking Engagements

- Mississippi Employment Law 2022 Seminar (May 2022)
- Mini Law School for HR Professionals - A Comprehensive Primer on Labor & Employment Law, Speaker, Jackson, Mississippi (June and August 2019, July 2022)
- Human Resource Law from A to Z Seminar, Pearl, MS (March 2019)
- Capital Area Bar Association's New Appellate Judges Roundtable, Moderator (April 2018)
- "The Many Ways Social Media Can Land Employers in Court," Human Resource Management local chapters (2015)
- "Bad Faith Watch List," Defense Research Institute, Life, Health, Disability, and ERISA Seminar, Boston, Massachusetts (2013)

Publications

- "U.S. Supreme Court Considers Donor Disclosure Challenge." *Mississippi Business Journal* (May 7, 2021).
- "Mississippi Legislature Considers Bill to Privatize Wholesale Alcohol Distribution." *Mississippi Business Journal* (February 3, 2021).
- "Voting by Mail Versus Absentee Voting." *Y'all Politics* (August 25, 2020).
- "Redistricting on the Horizon." *Mississippi Business Journal* (July 8, 2019).
- "ANALYSIS - Ponzi Schemes and Controversial Clawback Claims Against Investors." *Mississippi Business Journal* (May 11, 2018).
- "Political Contributions: Know Your Limits." *Mississippi Business Journal* (April 11, 2018).
- "Changes to Mississippi Campaign Finance Laws Affect Business Community." *Mississippi Business Journal* (October 16, 2017).
- "The Journal's Journey: a History of the Mississippi Law Journal." 81 Miss. L.J. 1527 (2012).

Pro Bono & Community Service

- Habeas Corpus Petitions and Counsel
- Redeemer Presbyterian Church, Deacon

Law School Honors & Awards

- Mississippi Law Journal, Notes & Comments Editor
- Moot Court Board
- Finalist, 2009 National First Amendment Moot Court Competition, Vanderbilt University
- 2010 ABA National Appellate Competition, Washington D.C.
- Inductee, The Order of Barristers
- American Jurisprudence Award

Previous Experience

- Associate Attorney at a major regional law firm
- Legal Writing Instructor, Mississippi College School of Law
- Law Clerk to the Honorable Rhesa H. Barksdale, U.S. Court of Appeals for the Fifth Circuit
- Law Clerk to the Honorable Richard A. Schell, U.S. District Court for the Eastern District of Texas
- Executive Director, Mississippi Republican Party
- Director of Legislative Affairs, Associated Builders and Contractors
- Legislative Assistant, U.S. Rep. Sam Johnson (R-TX)

Practice Areas

- Appellate

- Commercial Litigation
- Indemnity & Additional Insurance
- Labor & Employment
- Medical Marijuana
- Personal Injury
- Political Law
- Product Liability