

W. Michael Atchison **Partner**

As a founding partner of the firm, Mike has practiced continually with Starnes & Atchison for the past 35 years. He has served as managing partner and as a member of the firm's executive committee.

Practice

In a career spanning almost four decades, Mike's dedication to civil trial litigation has resulted in his being lead counsel in a variety of cases throughout the Southeast in both state and federal courts. These include securities class actions, commercial and business disputes, products liability, aviation accidents and crashes, pharmaceutical products, employment discrimination and professional negligence. Mike has held first chair status in several "bet the company" cases and is generally considered as the lawyer other Alabama lawyers seek to retain when threatened with litigation or ethical problems.

Honors And Awards

Mike is a Fellow of the American College of Trial Lawyers. Additionally, he has been continuously recognized since 2003 by *Chambers USA* as one of the Southeast's leading business litigators. In the 2008 & 2009 publication, *Chambers USA* again recognized Mike as one of the "Tier I" business litigators in Alabama.

Mike has been listed in *The Best Lawyers in America*® for 17 consecutive years. Mike has also been named a Litigation Star for the state of Alabama in the 2008 - 2010 editions of *Benchmark Litigation*, and was named by the 2008 - 2010 editions of *Alabama Super Lawyers*® magazine as one of the top attorneys in the state of Alabama.

In addition, Mike was invited to join the Alabama Law Foundation's Fellows Program, where membership is restricted to only 1% of lawyers in the State.

Community Involvement

Mike currently serves as a Member of the Board of Trustees for Birmingham-Southern College, having recently completed a term as Chairman of the Board. Mike has also served as President of the Birmingham-Southern College Alumni Association. He has been a member of the Shades Valley Rotary Club, Kiwanis Club, Newcomen Society, Leadership Birmingham Class of 1995, and has served as Deacon, Independent Presbyterian Church.

Mike is also involved with the following professional organizations:

American Inns of Court, Birmingham Chapter
American Bar Association:
Section of Tort and Insurance Practice
Birmingham Bar Association:
Co-Chairman, Grievance Committee, 1982-1983
Co-Chairman, Public Relations Committee, 1985-1986



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Practices

Class Actions
Business Litigation
General Civil Litigation
Medical & Healthcare
Product Liability & Consumer Litigation
Professional Liability
Alternative Dispute Resolution
Complex Insurance Litigation
Securities Litigation

Education

J.D., Cumberland School of Law,
Samford University (1968)
B.A., Birmingham-Southern College
(1965)

Courts

Member, Grievance Committee, 1979-1981
Bulletin Committee, 1982-1983, 1989-1990, 1992-
Membership Committee, 1989-1990
Alabama Bar Association:
Chairman, Public Relations Committee, 1985-1985
Member, Committee to Reorganize the Appellate Court System, 1988-1990
Character and Fitness Committee, 1992-Present
Task Force to Consider Reconstructing
Federation of Insurance & Corporate Counsel: Member, Products Liability Section; Member, Pharmaceutical Litigation Section
Defense Research Institute
Advocate, American Board of Trial Advocates
Alabama Defense Lawyers Association

Speeches And Publications

Executive Editor of the Cumberland Lawyer, 1967-1968
Proving Damages in Mass Tort Litigation, Alabama Defense Lawyers Journal, 1982
Alabama Damages, National Business Institute, Inc., 1985
Medical Practice in Alabama, National Business Institute, Inc., 1986
Medical Malpractice: A Defense Attorney's Perspective, Cumberland Law Review, 1993
The Professional Liability of Attorneys in Alabama, Cumberland Law Review, Vol. 30, No. 3 (1999-2000)
Southeastern Trial Seminar, 1982
Cumberland School of Law CLE Seminar, 1983
Seminar on Damages, 1984
Seminar on Non-Medical Liability of Professionals, 1984
Professional Malpractice Seminar, 1985
Alabama Insurance Law Seminar, 1986
Medical Malpractice Seminar, 1986
How to Avoid Legal Malpractice Claims Seminar, 1988
Deposing the Expert in a Civil Case, 1988
Trial Tactics Seminar, 1990
Symposium on Nursing Liability, 1990
Law and the Hospital Administrator, 1991
The Trial of a Non-Commercial Lawsuit, 1991
Proving and Arguing Damages, 1991
Back to the Basics, 1993
Symposium on Tort Reform, 1994
Cumberland's Best, 1994
An Effective Closing Argument, 1995
Recent Developments for the Civil Litigator, 1996
Basic Legal Skills Seminar (1996, 1997, 1998, 1999, 2000, 2001)
Defense Bar Strategies, 1999
Jury Selection, 1999
Presenting and Defending Damages in Cases of Catastrophic Injury, 1999
Practical and Medical/Legal Aspects of Chronic Opioid Therapy, 2001
Cumberland CLE, 2001
Attorneys Insurance Mutual of Alabama, Inc., CLE Seminar, 2001
University of Alabama School of Law, Jury Selection Seminar, 2001
Alabama Risk Management Seminar, 2002