



## Editorial from *Chambers USA 2014*

### Starnes Davis Florie LLP

**What the team is known for** A boutique litigation firm with an extremely strong reputation throughout the state for medical malpractice and negligence claims. Clients include insurance companies, physicians, hospitals, nursing homes and long-term care facilities. Increasingly active in commercial litigation, with significant experience handling securities, environmental and construction disputes.

**Strengths** (Quotes mainly from clients): *"They are clearly outstanding - what amazed me about the group was its absolute attention to detail. They worked exceptionally hard."*

*"They continually try difficult, complex medical malpractice cases with a rate of success that rivals law firms throughout the country."*

*"They are really excellent, great client guys, unbelievable in front of local juries."*

**Work highlights:** Acted for ProAssurance on successfully defending an emergency room physician and a radiologist against a medical malpractice claim following an alleged failure to diagnose a neck fracture.

Advised Walter Energy on a securities fraud case relating to a 42% drop in the company's stock price.

**Notable practitioners:** [Michael Florie](#) is praised for his experience and ability in medical malpractice cases. He also handles matters such as product liability and securities litigation. He receives universal praise for his extensive trial experience: *"He's an outstanding defense attorney - he's unreal in terms of his knowledge and ability to prepare and present a case."*

*"Excellent litigator"* [Randal Sellers](#) has a wealth of experience handling professional medical liability matters and wide-ranging healthcare litigation. He is also sought after for intellectual property and licensing disputes.

[Walter Bates](#) is well known for representing physicians in medical malpractice cases. One source said: *"He's a polished lawyer with an incredible bank of legal knowledge and a talent for swaying a room to his way of thinking."*

[Robert MacKenzie](#) is described as a *"great trial lawyer"* with valuable experience in medical malpractice proceedings: *"He thinks strategically about how to handle a case and deal with clients."*

[Michael Wright](#) has expertise in handling a wide range of cases in the medical and pharmaceutical sector, and clients commend his high service level: *"He does an excellent job. He is exceedingly well prepared, knowledgeable and very thorough."*

[Jay Ezelle](#) is well regarded for high-stakes corporate litigation as well as securities fraud cases. One source particularly commended his proactivity: *"He is constantly looking for new strategies and approaches to litigation."*

**Significant clients:** St. Vincent's Health System, Noland Health Services, PNC Financial Services Group, Drummond Company, ProAssurance.