



Rick E. Harris

OF COUNSEL

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ABOUT RICK

Rick's practice is devoted to regulatory compliance issues affecting health care facilities. Prior to joining Starnes Davis Florie, he worked as an attorney and senior manager at the Alabama Department of Public Health. For the last fifteen years of his career there, Rick directed the agency that inspects and regulates all health care facilities in the State of Alabama.

Legal Assistant

Pamela Lopez
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Areas of Practice

Early Case Assessment
Healthcare
Healthcare Fraud
Long Term Care & Nursing
Home Litigation
Long Term Care & Other
Healthcare Regulatory
Compliance
Regulatory and Compliance
White Collar, Compliance &
Investigations

EDUCATION

University of Pennsylvania Law School
(1980)
B.G.S., summa cum laude, University of New
Hampshire (1977)

BAR ADMISSIONS

Alabama

COURTS

U.S. District Court, Middle District of
Alabama
U.S. Court of Appeals, 5th Circuit
U.S. Court of Appeals, 11th Circuit
U.S. Supreme Court

ACCOLADES



PROFESSIONAL RECOGNITION

Rick has testified before the U.S. Senate Committee on Aging, the U.S. Senate Judiciary Committee, and numerous committees in the Alabama Legislature

He has appeared on the NPR program, "Talk of the Nation," and has been quoted in USA Today and U.S. News & World Report on health care regulatory issues

EXPERIENCE HIGHLIGHTS

Rick has taught investigative skills to the staffs of health care facility surveyors (inspectors) in Alabama, Mississippi, Wyoming, and Oregon, and has presented programs on investigative skills and assisted living regulation at the national meeting of the Association of Health Care Facility Survey Agencies, as well as the Alabama Nursing Home Association, the Assisted Living Association of Alabama, and the Alabama Medical Directors Association.

He crafted many of the regulations and statutes that govern health care facilities in Alabama.

Rick has also served as a professional consultant to the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services ("CMS") on the issues of complaint investigation, supervisory review, guidance for declaring immediate jeopardy, and inconsistency in the citation of deficiencies.

PRESENTATIONS AND PUBLICATIONS

Thinking Outside the Box, Act II: Global Perspective to Risk Management, Etc, Alabama Nursing Home Association Mid-Year Conference, Orange Beach, AL, April 27, 2022.

COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT

Rick is an active member of St. Jude's Catholic Church in Montgomery, Alabama. Rick also serves as a teacher at Montgomery Catholic Preparatory School, where he teaches a course on "Rhetoric."

FUN FACTS

Rick and his wife Joey have hosted three exchange students, two from Northern Italy and one from Germany. A few years ago, Joey discovered that she has several first cousins in France, a result of her grandfather's army service during World War I. These connections have resulted in lively visits at various times with the cousins and the former exchange students, both here in Alabama and in Europe.

Rick served in the U.S. Navy during the Cold War aboard the USS Jack (SSN 605), a nuclear submarine. In 2024, Rick will be inducted into the Holland Club, which is limited to submarine veterans who have been qualified in submarines for more than 50 years. He is an aficionado of the Aubrey-Maturin novels by Patrick O'Brian, which paint a vivid picture of life in the British Navy during the Napoleonic wars. The movie, *Master and Commander*, was based on incidents depicted in some of these books.

performed is greater than the quality of legal services performed by other lawyers.