



The following section features attorneys who have demonstrated leadership qualities and have achieved the AV Preeminent rating by Martindale-Hubbell®.

Martindale-Hubbell®, the company that has long set the standard for lawyer ratings, has supplied ALM with a list of Top Rated Lawyers who have achieved an AV® Preeminent® Peer Review Rating, the highest rating in legal ability and ethical standards. To create this section, Martindale-Hubbell® tapped its comprehensive database of Martindale-Hubbell® Peer Review Ratings™ to identify lawyers who have been rated by their peers to be AV® Preeminent™.

Martindale Hubbell Peer Review Ratings are driven by the confidential opinions of lawyers and members of the judiciary who receive invitations from Martindale-Hubbell®, via an online survey or by mail, to provide reviews of lawyers of whom they have professional knowledge.

A complete directory of all AV® Preeminent™ lawyers can be found online at Lawyers.com® and Martindale.com, in the Martindale-Hubbell® Law Directory in print and CD-ROM formats, and online through the LexisNexis® services and at lexis.com. Attorneys shown do not constitute the full list of "Top Rated Lawyers"



ELITE LAWYERS OF THE SOUTH

ARKANSAS TEXARKANA

ROBERT T. VEON

Bob Veon is a founding partner of the Kansas and Arkansas based trial firm of McDonald Veon, P.A. He is admitted to practice in State and Federal Courts in Pennsylvania, Arkansas, Texas and Missouri. Mr. Veon handles complex, high stakes litigation for commercial entities, individuals and insurers, often serving as regional and national coordinating counsel throughout the U.S. Mr. Veon has extensive experience in product liability, premises, automobile, trucking/transportation, construction defect, drug and medical device, medical negligence, nursing home, long-term care, insurance coverage, insurance recovery, patent prosecution, class actions and MDL.

Mr. Veon is a member of the Arkansas Bar Association, Arkansas Association of Defense Counsel, State Bar of Texas, Texas Association of Defense Counsel, Missouri Bar Association, Defense Research Institute, The CLM and the International Association of Defense Counsel. Mr. Veon has served as faculty at programs offered by National Business Institute, National Institute for Trial Advocacy, Philadelphia Association of Defense Counsel, Pennsylvania Defense Institute, DRI, IADC and as adjunct faculty in the Trial Program at LSU Law School.



210 N. State Line Ave., Ste 303
Texarkana, AR 71854
p. 870.774.7390 f. 870.773.3690
www.McDonaldVeon.com



SOUTH CAROLINA COLUMBIA

DARYL G. HAWKINS

A native of Charleston, SC, Daryl G. Hawkins graduated from Wofford College with a B.A. in Economics in 1976 and from the University of South Carolina Law School in 1983. **He has devoted himself to representing those who have been injured due to professional malpractice.**

Mr. Hawkins was recently successful in having a new cause of action recognized by the SC Supreme Court allowing insurance carriers to file direct actions against the attorney's they hire to defend their insureds when they breach a duty owed to the insured client which causes the carrier a loss.

Mr. Hawkins was a Law Clerk to Chief Justice C. Bruce Littlejohn, 1983 – 1984, and maintains memberships in the following and has served in the capacities noted: Richland County Bar Association (President, 2007); American Bar Association; South Carolina Bar (Member of the House of Delegates 2013 - Present); South Carolina Association for Justice (formerly South Carolina Trial Lawyers Association); Chairman, SCTLA Ad Hoc Medical Malpractice Committee; Fourth Circuit Judicial Conference; and John Belton O'Neal Inn of Court (President, 2004-2005).

Mr. Hawkins has taught and has been a guest lecturer in the Intensive Trial Advocacy Program at SC School of Law and has presented, spoken, and appeared in other roles in numerous Continuing Legal Education seminars and at the John Belton O'Neal Inn of Court. He has authored numerous articles on various legal topics. He has been named to the list of lawyers recognized as Super Lawyers in South Carolina.

See: *Ranucci v. Crain*, 409 S.C. 493, 763 S.E.2d 189 (S.C. 2014); *Sentry Select Insurance Company v. Maybank Law Firm, LLC* and *Roy P. Maybank, Op. No. 27865* (S.C. 2019).

LAW OFFICE OF DARYL G. HAWKINS, LLC



1331 Elmwood Avenue, Suite 305 (29201)
Post Office Box 11906, Columbia, SC 29211
Call: 803.733.3531 | Fax: 803.744.1949
dgh@dghlaw.net | www.hawkinslawfirm.com

MISSISSIPPI STARKVILLE

LYDIA QUARLES

Lydia Quarles is a principal in the firm of Mozingo|Quarles PLLC with offices in Jackson and Starkville, Mississippi. She and firm principal James R. Mozingo have established a boutique practice built around their motto: *Creative solutions. Sound advice.* With a spectrum of legal expertise and a breadth of personal talents, Lydia has been able to offer her clients one-of-a-kind professional services. The firm is able to provide the skills, experience and resources of much larger firms, without sacrificing the personalized focus and attention that comes with its size. Areas of practice include business and commercial litigation, business transactions and contracts, business formation and operation, public entity representation, labor and employment, real estate transactions, and a select domestic and family practice. The firm is also adept at representing professionals in professional board inquiries, and Lydia is an experienced mediator. MIQ and its lawyers practice before all federal, state and local courts and many administrative bodies.

Lydia is a Martindale-Hubbell AV rated lawyer who is also recognized by Martindale as a Preeminent Woman Lawyer in America.

MOZINGO | QUARLES PLLC



1016 Louisville Street, Suite E, Starkville, MS 39579
Tel: 662.268.5096 | Fax: 662.323.5256
lydia@mqlawoffices.com | www.mozingolaw.com

ALABAMA HUNTSVILLE

MITCHELL J. HOWIE

The Law Office of Mitchell J.

Howie has been serving clients since 2004 with effective and skilled legal representation. Mr. Howie is a skilled criminal defense lawyer, personal injury lawyer, business lawyer and family lawyer who gets the best possible results for his clients and teaches trial advocacy worldwide for the military. In 2017 and 2018, Mitchell Howie was selected as an esteemed lawyer of America, as a Lawyer of Distinction, and one of the Best Attorneys in America. Between 2015-2018, Huntsville Attorney Mitchell Howie was selected as a member of the Nation's Top One Percent of attorneys by the National Association of Distinguished Counsel. One of the best family lawyers in Huntsville, he was recognized as Top 10 under 40 of Alabama Family Lawyers by the National Academy of Family Law Attorneys. Between 2014-2018 Attorney Mitchell Howie was recognized as one of the Top 100 lawyers by the National Trial Lawyers (NTL) and was recognized as one of the Top 40 Lawyers Under 40 by NTL and as one of the TOP TEN Criminal Defense attorneys in Alabama under 40 by the National Academy of Criminal Defense Attorneys.


**LAW OFFICE OF
MITCHELL J. HOWIE**

107 North Side Square, Huntsville, Alabama 35801
 Phone: 256.533.8074 | Fax: 256.533.3488
 info@mitchellhowie.com | www.mitchellhowie.com

LOUISIANA NEW ORLEANS

MICHAEL L. ECKSTEIN

**Business/Corporate Law
Individual and Corporate Tax Planning
Estate and Gift Taxation**

Michael Eckstein is a Board Certified Tax Attorney and Board Certified Estate Planning and Administration Specialist whose practice includes individual and business tax planning, representation of high/tech Businesses and venture capital transactions, estate tax planning, closely held business law, entrepreneurial business law, mergers and acquisitions, real estate tax practices and tax controversy work. Mr. Eckstein has experience in the representation of professional athletes, radio and entertainment personalities. Mr. Eckstein is a certified agent for the NBPA, NFLPA, CFLPA and FIBA. Mr. Eckstein received his undergraduate degree at the University of Kentucky, a Juris Doctorate degree at Tulane University Law School and a LL.M. in taxation from Georgetown University. Mr. Eckstein has been AV rated by Martindale Hubbell for over 30 years. Mr. Eckstein has been selected a "Louisiana Super Lawyer" from 2007 to 2020 and recognized by "Best Lawyers" for 2020.


ECKSTEIN LAW FIRM, APC

1515 Poydras Street, Suite 2195, New Orleans, LA 70112
 Tel: 504.527.0701 | Fax: 504.566.0040
 mle@eck-law.com | www.eck-law.com

OKLAHOMA TULSA

STEVEN W. MCGRATH

Steve McGrath leads the Employee benefits group at Conner & Winters, LLP - a Tier 1 firm nationally for Employee Benefits (ERISA) by U.S. News - Best Lawyers® "Best Law Firms" in 2019 and various previous years.

Mr. McGrath has served as Managing Partner, Chairperson and CFO of the Firm; he was on the executive committee of Hall Estill; and was a partner of Eckert, Seamans. Mr. McGrath was named Best Lawyers® 2012 Employee Benefits (ERISA) "Lawyer of the Year" in Tulsa. He has been recognized in The Best Lawyers in America® for over 20 years and is a Fellow of the American College of Employee Benefits Counsel. He graduated 4th in his class from William and Mary where he served as an editor of the law review and authored or co-authored four published articles.

The Firm has benefits lawyers in Austin, Dallas, Houston, Minneapolis, Tulsa, and Washington, D.C. Houston specializes in multiemployer plans and Washington specializes in issues for religious organizations with Danny Miller who was named the Best Lawyers® 2019 Employee Benefits (ERISA) "Lawyer of the Year" in Washington, D.C.


CONNER & WINTERS, LLP

4000 One Williams Center, Tulsa, OK 74172
 T 918.586.5684 | F 918.586.8684
 smcgrath@cwlaw.com | www.cwlaw.com

ALABAMA HUNTSVILLE

MARK A. JACKSON

A life-long resident of Huntsville, Alabama, Mark A. Jackson has dedicated his entire legal career to helping injury victims obtain the best possible compensation for their injuries, damages, and losses. Mark has guided many families through the difficult process of losing a loved one and helped them recover compensation for the wrongful death of their spouse, parent, or child.

Since obtaining his law degree from Samford University's Cumberland School of Law in 1990, Mr. Jackson has successfully established himself as one of the top personal injury litigators in northern Alabama, handling over 1,000 cases and achieving multimillion dollar settlements on behalf of his clients. Mark is a "Judicial Edition" recipient of Martindale-Hubbell's highest rating by judges and his peers. Mr. Jackson offers a commitment to each and every individual that their claim will be handled with the same level of experience and expertise as every other client's claim. This commitment to fairness and client satisfaction keeps past clients and other lawyers recommending Mr. Jackson over and over again.



525 Madison Street- 2nd Floor, Huntsville, Alabama 35801
 Phone: 256.533.5306 | Fax: 256.533.0020
 www.jacksonlegalteam.com



SETTLEMENT PLANNING SERVICES LLC

CONGRATULATIONS
to our founder
TACKER LeCARPENTIER
for again being named
LEGAL ELITE OF THE SOUTH!
#settlementplanningdoneright

www.SettlementPlanningLLC.com

*Over 28 Years of Litigation and
Settlement Planning Experience*

ELITE LAWYERS OF THE SOUTH

TENNESSEE CHATTANOOGA

MICHAEL E. RICHARDSON

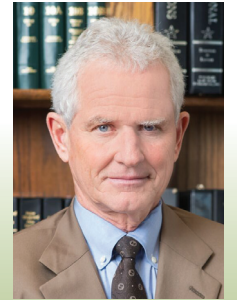
Michael E. Richardson is a successful and highly experienced trial lawyer located in Chattanooga that has been obtaining judgments and favorable settlements for his clients for his entire 39-year career. He specializes in cases involving Personal Injury, Professional Negligence claims, Business Disputes and Trust and Estate Litigation involving breaches of fiduciary duties.

He has been recognized as one of the leading trial lawyers in Tennessee, having won a number of landmark decisions and cases that changed the law in Tennessee. He has for many years been designated as one the "Best Lawyers in America" in the area of Legal Malpractice and has been an AV rated trial lawyer by Martindale Hubbell for 23 years.

He has been married to Cindy Harrah Richardson for 29 years, who manages their law practice and has been a paralegal for many years.

Richardson has developed a reputation for handling and winning professional negligence lawsuits. He is one of the few attorneys in the Country to have tried and won verdicts in cases involving medical malpractice, legal malpractice, accounting malpractice and lender liability actions.

He has obtained multi-million-dollar verdict and settlements for his clients including winning two verdicts in excess of ten million dollars. He is devoted to his practice and is a zealous advocate for his clients and their rights.



THE RICHARDSON LAW FIRM

The Republic Centre, Suite 1110, 633 Chestnut Street
Chattanooga, TN 37450
Ph: 423.602.9623 | mer@mrichardsonlaw.com

OKLAHOMA OKLAHOMA CITY

DONNA J. JACKSON

Donna J. Jackson is a nationally recognized attorney, authority, speaker and educator in estate planning. Ms. Jackson is a CPA and holds a Master Degree (LL.M.) in Elder Law. Ms. Jackson has over 30 years of legal experience. She limits her practice to estate planning with an emphasis on Medicaid, VA Benefits and special needs planning, including trusts, special needs trusts, wills, durable power of attorneys and living wills. In addition, Ms. Jackson's practice includes taxes, corporate, trust, individual, gift and estate, probates and business organizations, including corporations, limited partnerships and limited liability companies.



Ms. Jackson obtained a Bachelor of Science degree and a Master's degree in Accounting from Oklahoma State University. She received her Juris Doctor degree from Oklahoma City University School of Law in 1988, and LL.M. in Elder Law from Stetson College of Law in Florida. She currently serves on the board of National Academy of Elder Law Attorneys. She has served on numerous committees of the American Bar Association, Oklahoma Bar Association, the Oklahoma Society of CPAs and National Academy of Elder Law Attorneys.

Ms. Jackson has been a keynote speaker for the Oklahoma Bar Association, Strafford, and National Business Institute (NBI). She was honored as one of the 2011-2015 Five Star Wealth Managers in Estate Planning in the *Oklahoma Magazine*. In 2013, she received the Earl Sneed Award from the Oklahoma Bar Association for her contribution to continuing legal education.

DONNA J. JACKSON ATTORNEY AT LAW

10404 Vineyard Blvd, Ste E
Oklahoma City, Ok 73120
Ph: 405.840.1874 | Fax: 405.840.1880

LJP Law Journal Press

NEW BOOK



Due Diligence in Securities Offerings

by Corey R. Chivers

This practical guide provides a fresh linear approach to due diligence procedures. Chivers delivers the right mix of real-life examples and practical tools to help you move more quickly and intelligently.

Visit: lawcatalog.com or Call 877-807-8076

ABOUT THE AUTHOR



Corey R. Chivers is a partner in Weil, Gotshal & Manges LLP's Capital Markets practice. He has represented corporations, investment banks, national governments and multinational financial institutions in a wide range of public and private securities offerings, including initial public offerings, major high-yield transactions and investment grade debt offerings.

LawJournalPress.com

