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John S. Wathen

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John Wathen is an attorney in the firm's Louisville office where he is a member of the Creditors' Rights & Bankruptcy Service Group. John's practice focuses on representing creditors in bankruptcy court, general commercial litigation, commercial real estate disputes, lender liability actions, and contested mortgage litigation.

CAPABILITIES

Practice Areas

- Creditors' Rights & Bankruptcy
- Creditors' Rights, Out-of-Court Workouts & Commercial Litigation
- Opportunity Zones

BAR ADMISSIONS

- Kentucky
- U.S. Bankruptcy Court for the Eastern District of Kentucky
- U.S. Bankruptcy Court for the Western District of Kentucky
- U.S. District Court for the Eastern District of Kentucky
- U.S. District Court for the Southern District of Indiana
- U.S. District Court for the Western District of Kentucky

RECENT NEWS, ARTICLES & SPEAKING ENGAGEMENTS

- Trump Goes All In On Opportunity Zones with Recent Executive Order *Stites & Harbison, PLLC.* Stites & Harbison Client Alert, December 19, 2018
- New Amendments to Bankruptcy Rules Could Have a Major Effect on the Rights of Secured Creditors *Stites & Harbison, PLLC.* Stites & Harbison Client Alert, November 15, 2017

MEMBERSHIPS

- American Bar Association
- Kentucky Bar Association , Young Lawyers' Division (Executive Committee), 2nd District Elected Representative (2016 Outstanding District Representative); 2017 KBA Convention Committee

COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT

- Co-President, Vanderbilt Alumni Association - Louisville Chapter
- Kids Center for Pediatric Therapies, Board of Directors
- FOCUS Louisville, Spring 2018
- Leadership Owensboro, 2016
- 2018 Legal Food Frenzy, Firm Representative (sponsored by Kentucky Bar Association Young Lawyer's Division, Kentucky Attorney General's Office, Kentucky Secretary of State's Office and Kentucky Association of Food Banks)

EDUCATION

University of Kentucky College of Law J.D. 2013

- *Kentucky Journal of Equine, Agriculture, and Natural Resource Law*, Notes Editor
- Law Instruction Scholarship
- CALI Award, Advanced Estate Planning

Vanderbilt University B.A., History 2010

- National Merit Finalist Scholarship
- Sigma Chi Fraternity, Secretary and Philanthropy/Service Chair

MORE THAN STITES & HARBISON

Prior to joining Stites & Harbison, John was an attorney for a firm in Owensboro, Kentucky, where he gained extensive experience in commercial litigation in federal and state courts. He earned his J.D. from the University of Kentucky College of Law, and was Notes Editor for the *Kentucky Journal of Equine, Agriculture, and Natural Resource Law*. John also served as a judicial intern for Hon. Joseph H. McKinley, U.S. District Court, Western District of Kentucky.

John serves on the board for Kids Center for Pediatric Therapies, on the Executive Committee for the Young Lawyers' Division of the Kentucky Bar Association and served as the firm representative for the 2018 Legal Food Frenzy.

John mainly enjoys spending time with his wife Jennifer and daughter Bowen. He also enjoys golf, reading, and haggling at garage sales.

ACCOLADES

- *Best Lawyers in America*®, Ones To Watch, Bankruptcy & Creditor Debtor Rights / Insolvency & Reorganization Law (2021)