



Michael D. Risley

Title: Member

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Mike Risley is Co-Chair of the firm's Appellate Advocacy Group and former Chair of the Louisville office's Litigation Service Group. A seasoned litigator, Mike frequently appears before both state and federal appellate courts. He also has deep experience in disputes involving insurance bad faith and coverage, ERISA, and commercial and employment-related matters.

CAPABILITIES

Practice Areas

- Appellate Advocacy
- Business Litigation
- Employee Benefits
- Insurance Coverage, Bad Faith & Regulatory Litigation
- Litigation & Appeals

RECENT ASSIGNMENTS

- Currently representing party before the Kentucky Supreme Court in case addressing whether the Court should abandon traditional classification of entrants upon land in premises liability cases
- Currently representing successful plaintiffs before the Kentucky Supreme Court in connection with \$100 million judgment partially set aside by the Court of Appeals
- Currently representing employer in Sixth Circuit in plaintiff's appeal from dismissal of employment claims
- Currently representing insurer in Sixth Circuit in plaintiff's appeal of dismissal of bad faith claims
- Currently representing insurer in Kentucky Court of Appeals in plaintiff's appeal from setting aside of significant default judgment
- Represented insurer before the Kentucky Supreme Court in significant bad faith verdict (2017)
- Successfully represented insurer before Kentucky Supreme Court in reversal of Court of Appeals dismissal of insurer's appeal on procedural grounds (2015)

BAR ADMISSIONS

- Kentucky
- U.S. Court of Appeals for the 6th Circuit
- U.S. Court of Appeals for the 8th Circuit
- U.S. District Court for the Eastern District of Kentucky
- U.S. District Court for the Western District of Kentucky
- U.S. Supreme Court

RECENT NEWS, ARTICLES & SPEAKING ENGAGEMENTS

- Kentucky High Court Restores \$80M Punitive Damages Against Firm
Law360, December 13, 2018
- Homebuilder's commercial liability insurance may not completely protect you Stites & Harbison, PLLC, Client Alert, March 30, 2010
- Q&A with Stites & Harbison's Michael Risley *Law 360*, New York, November 10, 2009

FIRM LEADERSHIP

- Appellate Advocacy group, Co-Chair
- Louisville Office Recruiting Committee, Member
- Business Acceptance Committee, Member
- Diversity Committee, Former Member
- Louisville Litigation Service Group, Former Chair
- Management Committee, Former Member

MEMBERSHIPS

- American Bar Association
- Kentucky Bar Association
- Louisville Bar Association
- Defense Research Institute
- Kentucky Defense Counsel
- Kentucky Bar Foundation

COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT

- Better Business Bureau of Greater Louisville, General Counsel
- Episcopal Diocese of Kentucky, Church Attorney
- St. Francis School, former long-term Board of Trustees member
- University of Kentucky Fellow

EDUCATION

University of Kentucky College of Law J.D., with highest distinction 1983

Murray State University B.S., Psychology *summa cum laude* 1977

MORE THAN STITES & HARBISON

Mike serves as General Counsel to the Better Business Bureau of Greater Louisville. He is a Church Attorney for the Episcopal Diocese of Kentucky, and a former long-time member of the Board of Trustees of St. Francis School, an independent school located in Louisville.

Mike spends some of his time away from the office travelling, being an avid sports fan, and serving at his Church. In addition, while a notoriously bad golfer, Mike will long be remembered for winning the closest to the pin contest at the 2005 Louisville Bar Association annual golf outing.

ACCOLADES

- *Martindale-Hubbell*® AV-Preeminent® Peer Review Rated
- *Best Lawyers in America*®, Appellate Law (2011-19)
- *Best Lawyers in America*®, Louisville Area Lawyer of the Year in Appellate Law (2017)
- *Kentucky Super Lawyers*® (2013-19)
- *Louisville Magazine's* "Top Lawyers" for Insurance Law (2013, 2014, 2016)
- Finance Monthly, Fintech Awards Insurance & Reinsurance Lawyer of the Year (2019)