



**Michael Denbow**

Title: Member

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Michael Denbow is a member (partner) in the Louisville office. Michael focuses his practice on White Collar Criminal Defense and other government and regulatory matters. He handles matters in federal and state courts throughout the southeast and represents clients when dealing with such government entities as the Department of Justice, the FBI, the SEC, and the CFPB, among others. Michael also routinely represents professional athletes and entertainers in contract negotiations, business advice, and litigation matters.

# CAPABILITIES

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## Practice Areas

- Antitrust, Consumer Protection & Attorney General Defense
- Appellate Advocacy
- Business Litigation
- Employee Benefits
- Employment Litigation
- Gaming
- Health Care
- Litigation & Appeals
- Professional Liability Litigation
- Securities
- Sports & Entertainment
- White Collar Criminal Defense Litigation

## RECENT ASSIGNMENTS

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- *United States v. Dino Gaudio*. In a nationally publicized case, former University of Louisville basketball coach and former ESPN analyst Dino Gaudio was charged with extortion in connection with a surreptitiously taped conversation Coach Gaudio had with University of Louisville Men's Basketball Coach Chris Mack. Upon reviewing our case submissions, particularly relating to Coach Gaudio's outstanding character, the presiding United States District Judge not only gave Coach Gaudio the minimum sentence permitted by law but went so far as to question the United States' decision to prosecute the case despite the United States Sentencing Guidelines recommending two (2) years of incarceration.
- Defended NBA player in arbitration before the National Basketball Players Association ("NBPA") over agent fee dispute
- Obtained a non-prosecution agreement on behalf of a client involved in the *Project Varsity Blues* college admission scandal
- Defended client in insider trading investigation by the Securities and Exchange Commission ("SEC") that resulted in no charges or claims being made against the client
- Successfully challenged an initial determination of ineligibility by the Kentucky High School Athletic Association ("KHSAA") for a high school baseball player and ensured eligibility for his junior year of high school
- Defended client in homicide investigation involving a dispute with an Uber driver that resulted in no charges being brought against the client
- Negotiated consulting deal on behalf of client with NFL team
- Assisted client with negotiation and activation of augmented reality application at the 2019 College Football National Championship Game
- Negotiated several contracts on behalf of singer/songwriter from Nashville
- Successfully obtained a Temporary Restraining Order ("TRO") against a Kentucky business for accessing the confidential commission data of our client
- Obtained a non-prosecution agreement for individual client in an oil and gas fraud matter out of the Southern District of Georgia

- Represented a large corporate client in a federal antitrust investigation from the Antitrust Division of the Department of Justice
- Negotiated an athletic shoe and apparel contract on behalf of NBA player
- Represented a large corporate client in response to multiple federal grand jury subpoenas in a large money laundering investigation in the Eastern District of Kentucky
- Obtained a directed verdict in a DUI trial in Kentucky state court
- Successfully obtained a temporary restraining order against the Kentucky High School Athletic Association ("KHSAA"), allowing a previously declared ineligible student athlete to compete during his senior basketball season
- Represented minority contracting company in federal false claims criminal investigation
- Represented casino consulting firm in federal grand jury investigation and before NIGC
- Represented Kentucky Commonwealth Attorney sued for malicious prosecution
- Represented a national client in an SEC insider trading investigation.
- Represented state's largest hospital system in false claims act litigation
- Represented numerous doctors in criminal investigations and in front of professional license boards
- Represented Durable Medical Equipment (DME) in false claims act litigation
- Represented large road contractor in Department of Justice antitrust litigation
- Defended litigation against a nationwide insurance company in a class action lawsuit
- Represented out-of-state law firm sued for malpractice over the creation of a trust

## BAR ADMISSIONS

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- Kentucky
- U.S. Court of Appeals for the 6th Circuit
- U.S. Court of Appeals for the 9th Circuit
- U.S. District Court for the Eastern District of Kentucky
- U.S. District Court for the Eastern District of Michigan
- U.S. District Court for the Western District of Kentucky

## RECENT NEWS, ARTICLES & SPEAKING ENGAGEMENTS

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- Entering the NIL Game  
by Mark Green, *The Lane Report*, September 2021
- NIL Update – Should Student Athletes Seek Professional Advice? *with Aaron R. Klein and Rebecca M.W. Sherman* Stites & Harbison Client Alert, August 27, 2021
- Feds Oppose Prison For Fired NCAA Coach's Blackmail Threat  
By Rachel Scharf, *Law360.com*, August 11, 2021
- Kentucky Joins Growing Number of States Allowing Student-Athletes to Receive Name, Image, Likeness (NIL) Compensation *with Rebecca M.W. Sherman* Stites & Harbison Client Alert, July 2, 2021
- Kentucky's Prisons, COVID, and No Compassionate Release *with Joshua F. Barnette* Kentucky Bar Association, *Bench & Bar Magazine*, January-February 2021
- The Perfect Storm? A Look at the Federal Compassionate Release Program Following the First Step Act and a Worldwide Pandemic *with Joshua F. Barnette* Kentucky Bar Association, *Bench & Bar Magazine*, January-February 2021
- Responding to and Defending Government Investigations: What to do When the Government “Knocks” On Your Door  
Kentucky Bar Association Corporate House Counsel, Webinar, February 10, 2021
- No Good Deed: Protecting Yourself and Your Business from a Governmental Investigation Concerning Your PPP Loan *with Joshua F. Barnette* Stites & Harbison Client Alert, May 13, 2020
- Responding to and Defending Governmental Investigations: What to Do When the Government 'Knocks' On Your Door  
Blueprint for the Future: Drafting a New Plan for Health Care, Kentucky Hospital Association 89th Annual Convention, Lexington, KY, May 2018
- Practical Implications and Concerns of the Criminal Referral Process  
2017 Farm Credit System (FCS) Attorney's Conference, New Orleans, LA, September 2017
- Title Agencies Did Not Violate RESPA Affiliated Business Rule  
*The Title Insurance Law Newsletter*, American Land Title Association, September 2017

## FIRM LEADERSHIP

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- Diversity and Inclusion Task Force, Member (2021)
- Louisville Office Recruiting Committee, Member

## MEMBERSHIPS

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- American Bar Association
- Kentucky Bar Association
- Louisville Bar Association
- American Health Lawyers Association
- National Association of Criminal Defense Lawyers (NACDL)
- Kentucky Association of Criminal Defense Lawyers (KACDL)

## COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT

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- St. Agnes Catholic Church, Member
- Cystic Fibrosis Foundation, Board Member

## EDUCATION

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University of Louisville Louis D. Brandeis School of Law J.D. 2008

- *Brandeis Law Journal*, Member

Washington and Lee University B.A. *cum laude* 2004

- First Team ODAC Academic All Conference (2001, 2003) - Basketball

## MORE THAN STITES & HARBISON

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Prior to joining Stites & Harbison, Michael worked at GE for three years as a program manager in the Warranty Management Division. Michael also participated in the firm's summer associate program in the summer of 2007. Outside of the practice of law, Michael and his wife, Ali, have four kids: Gracie, Jack, Henry, and George. While the kids account for most of his spare time, he still finds time to live and die with University of Kentucky football and basketball as well as the Pittsburgh Pirates and Pittsburgh Steelers.

## ACCOLADES

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- *Kentucky Super Lawyers*®, Rising Star (2013-21)
- *Louisville Magazine* Top Lawyers (2016)