



Whitney Frazier Watt

Title: Member

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Since beginning her career at Stites & Harbison in 2003, Whitney has developed a wide-ranging litigation practice that includes product liability, toxic torts, mass actions, contract disputes, tortious interference, coverage disputes, and wrongful death. Whitney has taken and defended hundreds of depositions and made countless court appearances, including trials. An experienced defender of mass torts, she is currently responsible for managing a docket of several hundred product liability cases brought by thousands of plaintiffs. Whitney's practice requires daily vigilance and dedication to ensure that a large team of attorneys and paralegals is always focused on the client's best interests.

CAPABILITIES

Practice Areas

- Arbitration, Mediation & Alternative Dispute Resolution
- Business Litigation
- Class Action, Mass Action & Multi-District Litigation
- Litigation & Appeals
- Pharmaceuticals & Medical Devices Litigation
- Pretrial Practice & eDiscovery
- Product Liability Litigation
- Professional Liability Litigation

RECENT ASSIGNMENTS

- Management of serial litigation against a major manufacturer of safety equipment
- Secured summary judgment for a forklift manufacturer in asbestos litigation
- Litigation against a prominent appliances manufacturer
- Trucking litigation, including scene investigation, against a large professional services provider
- Product liability, personal injury, and contract litigation against a moving equipment and storage rental company
- Wrongful death, asbestos, and coverage litigation against a boiler inspection and insurance company
- Breach of contract litigation and negotiations for a healthcare mergers & acquisition advisory firm
- Litigation involving a talc supplier
- Breach of contract, retaliation, and tortious interference litigation against a mental health hospital system
- Litigation against a large motor vehicle manufacturer related to claims arising from fire damage
- Litigation against a supplier of chemicals and ingredients used in flavors, fragrances, food, and beverages

BAR ADMISSIONS

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

RECENT NEWS, ARTICLES & SPEAKING ENGAGEMENTS

- Forever Chemicals - The Latest in an Ever Changing Landscape
IADC (International Association of Defense Counsel) 2024 Mid-Year Meeting, Miami, Fla., February 18-23, 2024
- Defusing Nuclear Verdicts Prior to Trial
co-author, International Association of Defense Counsel (IADC) Product Liability Newsletter, January 2024
- Managing External Counsel
Moderator, IADC Corporate Counsel Training Academy, Chicago, IL, April 6, 2022
- Is Quarantine to Blame for Increased Consumer Litigation?
Panel Member, 2021 Women in Litigation Joint CLE Conference, ABA Litigation Section, November 17-19, 2021
- 4th Circ. Says 'Unfair' Va. Law Forces It To Nix Black Lung Suit *with Bethany A. Breetz and Carol Dan Browning* By Sarah Jarvis, Law360, November 9, 2020
- Using Bankruptcy to Your Client's Advantage
IADC Committee Newsletter, Product Liability, June 2020
- Defense Strategies for Winning on the Statute of Limitations
American Bar Association, *Products Liability Litigation Newsletter*, August 2019
- Design Thinking for Litigators *with Jennifer Henry Jackson* IADC Committee Newsletter, Product Liability, June 2019
- Refinery's Blast Coverage Claim Blown Up by Own Expert
by Jeff Sistrunk, Law360, May 3, 2019
- How to Win on Statute of Limitations
Speaker, IADC Mid-Year Meeting, Santa Barbara, CA, February 2019
- *Daubert*: Trends and Statistics
IADC Committee Newsletter, Product Liability, November 2017
- Trial Skills, Trial-Focused Discovery: What You Need & How to Use It
Speaker, ABA Women in Products Liability CLE, Philadelphia, PA, November 2016

- Chapter 2: Preparation for Trial & Organization of Trial Materials
Co-author, *Kentucky Civil Practice at Trial*, 3rd and 4th Editions, UK/CLE, 2008 and 2016
- Time for a Makeover: Newly Proposed Cosmetic Safety Litigation
ABA Products Liability Website, 2015
- Five Things Every Businesswoman Should Know About Contracts
MBA Women, 2015
- The Good, the Bad, and the Ugly: Products Liability Year in Review
Speaker, ABA Joint Products Liability, Mass Torts, and Environmental CLE, Hollywood, Fla., January 2012
- Products Liability 2011: Year in Review
Co-author, ABA Joint Products Liability, Mass Torts, and Environmental CLE Materials, 2012
- 50-State Survey on Statute of Limitations
Co-author, Kentucky section, American Bar Association, 2012
- Ethical Considerations for Using Technology in Your Practice
Moderator, ABA Women in Products Liability CLE, New York, NY, November 2010
- Avoiding Discovery Pitfalls - How to Manage Your Document Productions and Reviews in a Way that Will Satisfy Your Client and Win Your Case
Moderator, ABA Joint Products Liability, Mass Torts & Environmental CLE, Beaver Creek, Colo., January 2010
- Litigating in the Face of E-Discovery Rules: Post-Implementation Perspectives and Practice Tips
Moderator, ABA Women in Products Liability CLE, New Orleans, La., October 2007

MEMBERSHIPS

- International Association of Defense Counsel , Product Liability Committee, Chair (2023-present), Vice Chair of Programs & Projects (2021-23), Vice Chair of Special Projects (2020-21), Vice Chair of Webinars (2019-20), and Vice Chair of Newsletter (2017-19); Diversity, Equity, Inclusion & Belonging Committee, Vice Chair of Empowerment Collaborative (2022-present) and Vice Chair of Member Involvement (2021-22)
- American Bar Association , Women in Product Liability Subcommittee, Former Chair (2013-14)
- Defense Research Institute
- Trial Attorneys of America , Member
- Kentucky Bar Association
- Louisville Bar Association

COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT

- Kentucky Governor's Scholar Program, Board of Directors (2020-present)
- Girl Scouts - Troop 2166, Co-Leader
- Whitehall House & Gardens, Board of Regents; Vice Regent; Secretary (2019-20)

EDUCATION

University of Kentucky College of Law J.D. 2003

- *Kentucky Law Journal*, Managing Editor 2002-03

Davidson College B.A., English 2000

Oxford University, Lincoln College European Studies Program - Classics 1998

ACCOLADES

- *Martindale-Hubbell*® AV-Preeminent® Peer Review Rated
- *Best Lawyers in America*®, Mass Tort Litigation / Class action - Defendants; Product Liability Litigation - Defendants (2020-24)
- *Kentucky Super Lawyers*® (2015-24)
- *Kentucky Super Lawyers*®, Rising Star (2013-14)
- Forty under 40 List, *Business First of Louisville* (2013)