STITES & HARBISON PLLC

Ashley W. Ward

Title: Member

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Ashley Ward has practiced in the Lexington office's Torts and Insurance Service Group since 1986 and is a co-leader of that group. He has tried more than 20 jury trials to verdict. He focuses on product liability, personal injury, medical malpractice, telecommunications and contractual disputes. Ashley also has considerable experience litigating will contests and other fiduciary disputes.

CAPABILITIES

Practice Areas

- Appellate Advocacy
- Pharmaceuticals & Medical Devices Litigation
- Professional Liability Litigation
- Litigation & Appeals

RECENT ASSIGNMENTS

- Successfully defended SuperAmerica convenience stores in several negligent security cases
- Successfully upheld in the Sixth Circuit Court of Appeals BellSouth Telecommunication's statewide right of way charter
- Obtained numerous defense verdicts for physicians at the University of Kentucky Medical Center

- Obtained numerous defense verdicts for Kings Daughters Medical Center in malpractice cases

BAR ADMISSIONS

- Kentucky

RECENT NEWS, ARTICLES & SPEAKING ENGAGEMENTS

- Kentucky Supreme Court Clarifies Privilege for Hospital Incident Reports and Root Cause Analyses
  ,with Sarah Cronan Spurlock Stites & Harbison Client Alert, January 13, 2026
- Kentucky Now Allows Persons Age 70 and Over To Opt Out of Jury Service
  Stites & Harbison Client Alert, November 20, 2023
- EKU appoints new regent to board, details new year-long student experience
  by Hagan Wells, WTVQ.com, July 26, 2021
- Kentucky Legislature Enacts Covid-19 Liability Protection for Businesses
  ,with Alisa Micu and Chelsea Stanley Stites & Harbison Client Alert, April 22, 2021
- New Kentucky Statute Provides Defenses To Medical Workers Who Treat COVID-19 Patients
  Stites & Harbison Client Alert, May 18, 2020
- Kentucky Enacts Certificate of Merit Requirement for Filing Medical Liability Cases
  ,with Joshua F. Barnette Stites & Harbison Client Alert, July 23, 2019
- U.S. Supreme Court Enforces Arbitration Clause in Kentucky Nursing Home Admission Documents
  Stites & Harbison Legal Update, June 21, 2017
- Negligent Security Issues on College Campuses
  presented at Vanderbilt University and Spalding University

FIRM LEADERSHIP

- Torts & Insurance Service Group, Co-Chair

MEMBERSHIPS

- American College of Trial Lawyers,
  - Fellow
- American Bar Association
- Kentucky Bar Association
- Fayette County Bar Association
- Defense Research Institute
- Federation of Defense & Corporate Counsel

COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT

- Eastern Kentucky University, Board of Regents (2021-27)
- Urban League of Lexington-Fayette County, Board of Directors

EDUCATION

- University of Kentucky College of Law J.D., 1984
- University of Kentucky B.A. with high distinction, Political Science, 1981

MORE THAN STITES & HARBISON

Upon graduation from law school, Ashley served as a law clerk for United States District Judge Scott Reed from 1984-86 in the Eastern District of Kentucky. Ashley was inducted into the Federation of Defense and Corporate Counsel (FDCC) in 2014. His civic and community involvement includes volunteer work for the Democratic Party and a member of the board of directors for the Urban League (Lexington). Ashley enjoys golfing, hiking and attending University of Kentucky sporting events.

RECENT DECISIONS

- *KYSPED, LLC v. Virginia Surety Company*, 2014 U.S. App. LEXIS 10443 (6th Circuit enforces alcohol exclusion in insurance policy against NASCAR race track)
- *Wilma Horn v. Ashland Hospital Corporation*, 2014 Ky. App. Unpub. LEXIS 596 (appellate court affirms defense verdict in medical malpractice trial)
- *Kathleen Imhoff v. Lexington Public Library Board of Trustees*, 2016 Ky. App. LEXIS 7 (appellate court affirms plaintiff's waiver of arbitration provision by filing suit)

ACCOLADES

- *Martindale-Hubbell*® AV-Preeminent® Peer Review Rated
- *Best Lawyers in America*®, Appellate Practice and Product Liability Litigation - Defendants (2007-27)
- *Best Lawyers in America*®, Lexington Area Lawyer of the Year for Product Liability Litigation–Defendants (2018, 2025)
- *Best Lawyers in America*®, Lexington Area Lawyer of the Year for Appellate Practice (2015, 2017, 2021, 2024)
- *Kentucky Super Lawyers*® (2007-26)
- *Benchmark Litigation* magazine, Litigation Star (2015-26)
- *Lawdragon* 500 Leading Litigators in America, Product Liability, Personal Injury, Medical Malpractice (2024)