STITES & HARBISON PLLC



Charles H. Stopher

Title: Member

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Charles Stopher is a litigation attorney in the firm's Louisville, Kentucky office. His focus is on civil trial work where he handles the defense of claims alleging personal injury, products liability, insurance bad faith, employment discrimination, professional liability, and breach of contract.

CAPABILITIES

Practice Areas

- Product Liability Litigation
- Business Litigation
- Employment Litigation
- Professional Liability Litigation
- Class Action, Mass Action & Multi-District Litigation
- Litigation & Appeals
- Insurance Coverage, Bad Faith & Regulatory Litigation
- Health Care – Litigation & Investigations
- Sports & Entertainment

RECENT ASSIGNMENTS

- Lead counsel for the NCAA in *Sam Vinson v. National Collegiate Athletic Association*, Kentucky Court of Appeals Case No. 2025-CA-1635, affirming trial court's denial of player's

petition for an additional year of eligibility to play Division I college basketball.

- Lead trial counsel in $25,000,000.00 insurance bad-faith jury trial.
- Lead trial counsel in $350,000,000 personal injury lawsuit defending national insurance carrier on negligence and vicarious liability claims arising out of its emergency road service coverage.
- Affirmed before the Sixth Circuit an order granting summary judgment on bad faith, fraud, and conspiracy claims in a complex insurance coverage case.
- Affirmed before the Seventh Circuit an order granting summary judgment on race and gender discrimination claims.
- Obtained defense verdict at trial in $20,000,000 insurance bad-faith claim.
- Acted as general counsel for regional accounting and business consulting firm.

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
- U.S. Court of Appeals for the 7th Circuit
- U.S. Supreme Court

RECENT NEWS, ARTICLES & SPEAKING ENGAGEMENTS

- Louisville judge weighs 5th-year eligibility case with stakes for UofL, Kentucky
  by Eric Crawford, WDRB News, August 14, 2026
- Empathy as Evidence: Humanizing Long-Term Care Defense
  presenter, Kentucky Association of Health Care Facilities' (KAHCF)/Kentucky Center for Assisted Living (KCAL)/Kentucky Senior Living Association (KSLA) 2025 Annual Meeting, Louisville, KY, November 18-20, 2025 , *with Paige E. Riley*
- These executives took on new roles in Q2 2024
  By David A. Mann, Managing editor, *Louisville Business First,* July 16, 2024 *,with Edward H. Stopher*
- Local Lawyers join Stites & Harbison
  by Piper Hansen, *Louisville Business First*, May 7, 2024 *,with Edward H. Stopher*
- Edward and Charles Stopher join Stites & Harbison
  by Editor, *The Lane Report*, April 17, 2024 *,with Edward H. Stopher*

MEMBERSHIPS

- Kentucky Bar Association
- Louisville Bar Association

EDUCATION

- University of Virginia School of Law J.D., 2005
- University of Virginia B.A., with distinction, 2001

MORE THAN STITES & HARBISON

Charles started his legal career as a trial attorney at the Louisville Metro Public Defender's office (2006-10). Prior to that he clerked for Judge John G. Heyburn II, U.S. District Judge for the Western District of Kentucky.

ACCOLADES

- *Best Lawyers in America*®, Commercial Litigation; Litigation - Insurance; and Product Liability Litigation - Defendants (2026-27)
- *Best Lawyers in America*®, Ones To Watch, Commercial Litigation; Mass Tort Litigation/Class Actions - Defendants; Personal Injury Litigation - Defendants; Product Liability Litigation - Defendants (2021-25)
- *Kentucky Super Lawyers*® (2023-24)
- *Benchmark Litigation* magazine, Litigation Star (2026)