STITES & HARBISON PLLC



J. Brittany Cross Carlson

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Brittany Carlson is a litigator in the Louisville office, where she is a member of the Torts & Insurance and Data Center Service Groups. She manages a national practice focused on the defense of complex product liability, pharmaceutical and medical device claims, medical malpractice, and personal injury matters. She brings strategic insight and practical experience to high-stakes litigation, guiding clients through all stages of dispute resolution—from pre-claim investigations and risk evaluation through trial and appeal. Brittany also regularly advises clients on risk management strategies aimed at reducing exposure and avoiding litigation altogether. In addition to her litigation practice, Brittany advises owners and developers of large-scale data centers across the U.S., supporting fast-paced, technologically complex construction and procurement efforts. Her work includes negotiating, drafting, and managing construction and vendor contracts, ensuring alignment with evolving operational and industry demands. Brittany leverages her litigation experience to bring a practical, risk-aware perspective that helps anticipate where conflicts are most likely to arise. This enables her to advise proactively, helping clients minimize the risk of costly disputes and avoid common pitfalls that can delay or derail major projects.

CAPABILITIES

Practice Areas

- Product Liability Litigation
- Pharmaceuticals & Medical Devices Litigation
- Litigation & Appeals
- Data Center Service Group
- Construction

RECENT ASSIGNMENTS

- Defend national retailer against contract, product, and premises liability claims in state and federal court
- Defending an international medical device manufacturer as a member of the national and regional counsel teams for various devices
- Developing discovery strategy and coordinating large-scale e-discovery productions for international medical device manufacturer
- Defending Kentucky-area hospitals and physicians in medical malpractice litigation
- Kentucky personal injury counsel for leading international beverage manufacturer
- Defending wrongful death litigation against an international bakery equipment manufacturer
- Defending trucking litigation, including scene investigation, against large professional services providers

BAR ADMISSIONS

- Kentucky
- 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

- The ABC's of Doing Business in Kentucky
  Products Liability Chapter, Kentucky Chamber of Commerce, 2024
- Products Liability Desk Reference: A Fifty State Compendium
  co-author of Kentucky Chapter, 2020, 2021, 2022, 2023, 2024, 2025 *,with Jennifer Henry Jackson*
- Civic, community leaders from across state celebrate Leadership Kentucky Class of 2020 virtual graduation
  Northern Kentucky Tribune, December 17, 2020
- Compelling Discovery for Foreign Arbitrations
  Products Liability Litigation Newsletter, American Bar Association, August 10, 2015
- Predictability in Punitive Damages: Considering the Use of Punitive Damages Multipliers
  co-author, *Defense Counsel Journal*, International Assoc. of Defense Counsel, October 2012

- The Good, the Bad, and the Ugly: Products Liability Year in Review

  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 *,with Whitney Frazier Watt*

- Reaching Resolution: Utilizing Multidistrict Litigation Beyond Pretrial Proceedings

  presentation co-author, Chemical Products and Toxic Torts: From Crisis to Mass Litigation: Starting Smart and Finishing Strong, American Bar Association, Litigation Section, Products Liability and Mass Torts Committees, October 8, 2010

- Juror Incomprehension: Advocating for a Holistic Reform of Jury Instructions

  98 *Kentucky Law Journal* 355 (2009)

FIRM LEADERSHIP

- Louisville Office Recruiting Committee, Co-Chair
- SWIFT (Stites Women Investing in Our Future Together) Committee, Member (2017)

MEMBERSHIPS

- American Bar Association,
  - Health Law Section
- Kentucky Bar Association
- Louisville Bar Association

COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT

- St. Vincent de Paul Outreach Ministries, Board of Directors
- Leadership Kentucky, Class of 2020
- Domestic Violence Advocacy Program, Volunteer Attorney
- Daughters of the American Revolution, John Marshall Chapter Member
- Asia Institute - Crane House, former Secretary and former Vice President
- St. Joseph Montessori Children's Center, former Board of Directors Vice President

EDUCATION

- University of Kentucky College of Law J.D., *summa cum laude* 2010
- University of Notre Dame B.A., History and Philosophy, *magna cum laude* 2006

MORE THAN STITES & HARBISON

Ms. Carlson joined Stites & Harbison in September 2010 after participating in the firm's summer associate program. Prior to law school, she lived in Chicago where she worked for a litigation consulting and jury research firm. Outside of practicing law, Brittany enjoys overseas travel, cooking for family and friends, and supporting Notre Dame football.

ACCOLADES

- *Best Lawyers in America*®, Commercial Litigation (2025-27); Product Liability Litigation - Defendants (2023-27)
- *Best Lawyers in America*®, Ones To Watch, Mass Tort Litigation / Class Action - Defendants; and Product Liability Litigation - Defendants (2021)
- *Kentucky Super Lawyers*®, Rising Star (2019-20)