STITES & HARBISON PLLC



Joseph L. Hamilton

Title: Senior Member

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Joe Hamilton is a Member of the firm and has been based in the Louisville office since 1986. He is a member and past chair of the Business Litigation Service Group, which is home to dozens of attorneys and paralegals. He is also co-chair and co-founder of the firm's Class Action Defense Practice Group. His practice emphasis is in class action defense litigation and other complex business and business insurance litigation.

With regard to his class action defense practice, Mr. Hamilton has been counsel in over 150 putative class actions during the last 35 years. Those class actions have been concentrated primarily in life insurance, health insurance, ERISA and other insurance and financial product issues. He has defended clients in putative statewide and nationwide class actions on a regional and national basis, representing them in the state or federal courts of more than 25 states from coast to coast.

CAPABILITIES

Practice Areas

- Business Litigation
- Class Action, Mass Action & Multi-District Litigation
- Litigation & Appeals

RECENT ASSIGNMENTS

- Some of his recent major representative clients include: American Modern Insurance Group and subsidiaries; Farmers Insurance Group and subsidiaries; Assurant, Inc. and subsidiaries; Kentucky Farm Bureau Mutual Insurance Company; State Auto Insurance

Companies; Windstream, Inc.; The Independent Order of Foresters; Auto Owners Insurance and subsidiaries and affiliates; and, Allianz Life Insurance Company of North America and subsidiaries and affiliates.

BAR ADMISSIONS

- Kentucky
- U.S. Court of Appeals for the 4th Circuit
- 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. Supreme Court

FIRM LEADERSHIP

- Class Action Defense Practice Group, Co-Chair
- Diversity Committee, Member
- Business Litigation Service Group, Past Chair

MEMBERSHIPS

- American Bar Association
- Kentucky Bar Association
- Louisville Bar Association
- Federal Bar Association
- International Association of Defense Counsel

EDUCATION

- University of Louisville Louis D. Brandeis School of Law J.D., 1977
- Williams College B.A., American Civilization, 1973

MORE THAN STITES & HARBISON

Following graduation from law school, Joe served as a law clerk to Chief Judge Charles M. Allen of the U.S. District Court for the Western District of Kentucky at Louisville. In 2010, Joe was elected to the International Association of Defense Counsel (IADC).

ACCOLADES

- *Martindale-Hubbell*® AV-Preeminent® Peer Review Rated
- *Best Lawyers in America*®, Bet-the-Company Litigation and Commercial Litigation (2007-27)
- *Kentucky Super Lawyers*® (2012-18, 2021-24)
- *Chambers USA*: *"America's Leading Lawyers for Business,"* Litigation: General Commercial (2008-14)
- *Benchmark Litigation* magazine, Litigation Star (2008, 2009, 2013-25)
- *Louisville Magazine's* "Top Lawyers" for Class Action Law (2013, 2014)