STITES & HARBISON PLLC



Joshua F. Barnette

Title: Member

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Josh Barnette is a Member of the firm in the Atlanta and Lexington offices. He is a member of the Torts & Insurance, Business Litigation, and White Collar Criminal Defense practice groups. He advises clients through all phases of litigation, including appeals, in state and federal courts. He regularly represents and advises businesses, non-profits, and individuals in the areas of commercial litigation, fiduciary duties, torts and insurance, construction litigation, employment litigation, professional liability, and federal criminal defense.

CAPABILITIES

Practice Areas

- Litigation & Appeals
- Product Liability Litigation
- Business Litigation
- Employment Litigation
- White Collar Criminal Defense Litigation

RECENT ASSIGNMENTS

- Successfully defended coal mining equipment manufacturer in asbestos-related wrongful death trial.
- Successfully defended Kentucky non-profit and its board of directors against claims of conflict of interest, conversion, and fraud resulting in dismissal of all claims with prejudice.

- Obtained dismissal, affirmed on appeal, of professional negligence / legal malpractice claims against Kentucky attorney.
- Represented small business owner in federal fraud investigation resulting in no charges.
- Represented federal grand jury witness in gun/drug conspiracy resulting in no charges against witness.
- Represented attorney in civil fraud, civil RICO and professional negligence lawsuit brought in relation to captive insurance program.
- Obtained dismissal of civil conspiracy and negligence claims against Georgia attorney and law firm concerning real estate transaction.
- Secured agreed order of dismissal of all fraud claims during deposition of plaintiff.
- Represented small business owner in fraud and breach of fiduciary duties lawsuit.
- Obtained dismissal of indictment brought against client in Eastern District of Kentucky.
- Represented federal inmate on post-conviction matters in Eastern District of Kentucky, on brief in the Sixth Circuit Court of Appeals and on petition before the United States Supreme Court.
- Successfully mediated numerous lawsuits involving claims ranging from municipal liability to breach of contract.
- Represented small business owner in breach of contract lawsuit resulting in Court denying request for money judgment.
- Successfully defended trucking company against wrongful termination claims.

BAR ADMISSIONS

- Georgia
- Kentucky
- U.S. District Court for the Middle District of Georgia
- U.S. District Court for the Northern District of Georgia
- U.S. District Court for the Southern District of Georgia
- U.S. District Court for the Eastern District of Kentucky
- U.S. District Court for the Western District of Kentucky
- U.S. Supreme Court
- U.S. Court of Appeals for the 6th Circuit

RECENT NEWS, ARTICLES & SPEAKING ENGAGEMENTS

- People on the Move in Atlanta: Joshua F. Barnette
  by editor, *Atlanta Business Chronicle*, January 5, 2026
- Stites & Harbison and Tucker Ellis Obtain Defense Verdict in Wrongful Death Mesothelioma Case Where Plaintiff Sought $20.5 Million
  Stites & Harbison Case Profile, May 18, 2022 *,with Matthew W. Breetz*
- Kentucky's Prisons, COVID, and No Compassionate Release
  ,with Michael Denbow Kentucky Bar Association, *Bench & Bar Magazine*, January-February 2021
- The Perfect Storm? A Look at the Federal Compassionate Release Program Following the First Step Act and a Worldwide Pandemic
  ,with Michael Denbow Kentucky Bar Association, *Bench & Bar Magazine*, January-February 2021
- Responding to and Defending Government Investigations: What to do When the Government "Knocks" On Your Door
  Kentucky Bar Association Corporate House Counsel, Webinar, February 10, 2021 *,with Michael Denbow*
- No Good Deed: Protecting Yourself and Your Business from a Governmental Investigation Concerning Your PPP Loan
  ,with Michael Denbow Stites & Harbison Client Alert, May 13, 2020
- Kentucky Enacts Certificate of Merit Requirement for Filing Medical Liability Cases
  ,with Ashley W. Ward Stites & Harbison Client Alert, July 23, 2019

FIRM LEADERSHIP

- Diversity Committee, Member
- Office of General Counsel, Member
- Recruiting Committee, Atlanta Office, Member

MEMBERSHIPS

- American Bar Association
- Kentucky Bar Association
- Fayette County Bar Association
- State Bar of Georgia
- National Association of Criminal Defense Lawyers (NACDL)

- Kentucky Association of Criminal Defense Lawyers (KACDL)
- Defense Research Institute (DRI)

COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT

- AthensWest Theatre Company, Board Member (2018-22)
- Seedleaf, Inc., Board Member (2018-20)

EDUCATION

- University of Kentucky College of Law J.D.
- Columbus State University Master of Public Administration
- Mercer University B.S., Social Science, Criminal Justice, Minor in Psychology

MORE THAN STITES & HARBISON

Josh came to the firm after serving as a judicial law clerk for the Hon. Gregory F. Van Tatenhove, U.S. District Judge, Eastern District of Kentucky. Previously, he participated in the firm's summer associate program and served as a legal intern for the Hon. Karen K. Caldwell, Chief U.S. District Judge, Eastern District of Kentucky. Before going to law school, Josh was a United States Probation Officer for the Northern District of Georgia and served as a Management Specialist and Probation Officer for the Georgia Department of Corrections. Outside of the firm, Josh enjoys domestic and international travel – especially when paired with culinary indulgences – and loves all things outdoors, particularly hiking and camping. He is active in the Lexington community, serving on the Board of two local non-profits, AthensWest Theatre Company and Seedleaf, Inc. He routinely looks for ways to stretch the boundaries of his comfort zone and, in doing so, has found himself participating in multiple 200+ mile relay runs and one ultramarathon.

ACCOLADES

- *Best Lawyers in America*®, Ones To Watch, Commercial Litigation; Criminal Defense: White-Collar; Product Liability Litigation - Defendants (2024-27)
- *Kentucky Super Lawyers*®, Rising Star (2024-26)