STITES & HARBISON PLLC



Robert M. Connolly

Title: Senior Member

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Location: Louisville, KY

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Bob Connolly is based in the Louisville office where he previously served as Chair of the firm and General Counsel to the firm. He currently serves as Deputy General Counsel. He has been with the firm since 1980 and is a member of the firm's Business Litigation Section and the Torts & Insurance Practice Service Group.

Bob has tried more than 80 cases to jury verdicts in several states. He has also argued before every appellate court in the federal and state courts of Kentucky. His practice includes defending complex product liability claims and construction and commercial disputes. He has also had experience in administrative, OSHA, insurance, and admiralty claims.

Bob also served as a Special Justice on the Kentucky Supreme Court, *Greene, et. al. v. Commonwealth of Kentucky, Administrative Office of the Courts, et. al*., 349 S.W.3d 892 (KY September 22, 2011).

CAPABILITIES

Practice Areas

- Administrative Law
- Arbitration, Mediation & Alternative Dispute Resolution
- Appellate Advocacy
- Litigation & Appeals
- Business Litigation
- Government & Regulatory Litigation
- Insurance Coverage, Bad Faith & Regulatory Litigation

- Class Action, Mass Action & Multi-District Litigation
- Professional Liability Litigation
- Environmental Litigation
- Pharmaceuticals & Medical Devices Litigation
- Product Liability Litigation
- Gaming

RECENT ASSIGNMENTS

- Successfully represented a commercial property owner whose insurance carrier refused to pay roofing and interior storm damage claims. Following a trial involving 14 witnesses and over 800 exhibits, the jury returned a verdict ($3.9 million) awarding all of the damages incurred.
- Trial counsel for a major medical device manufacturer in multiple states
- National counsel for a nation-wide construction company in corporate and litigation matters
- Supervising trial counsel in mass tort litigation involving more than 2,000 plaintiffs in Kentucky

BAR ADMISSIONS

- Admitted Pro Hac Vice in Several Jurisdictions
- Kentucky
- U.S. Court of Appeals for the 1st Circuit
- U.S. Court of Appeals for the 6th Circuit
- U.S. Court of Appeals for the 7th Circuit
- 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

- PFAS Litigation and the Science that "Supports" It

  Forever Chemicals: What Does Your Business Need to Know and Do?, Stites & Harbison Webinar, October 22, 2024 ,*with Whitney Frazier Watt*

- Legal Maneuvering: How the pandemic has forced Louisville law firms to rethink the workplace
  By Sarah Shadburne, *Louisville Business First*, November 27, 2020
- Stites leader Robert Connolly on how his office manages the state of downtown
  By Chris Larson, *Louisville Business First*, October 13, 2020
- Legal Services: Tech Proves Its Case
  by Mark Green, The Lane Report, September 18, 2020
- GUEST COMMENT: What businesses need to look for with Covid-19 liability
  Louisville Business First, August 14, 2020 *,with Douglas B. Bates and Ashley N. Goins*
- Market Review: Louisville legal community helps array of clients navigate COVID-19 impact
  by Greg Paeth, *The Lane Report*, August 4, 2020
- Ky. Law Firm Leaders' Verdict for 2020: More Growth
  The Lane Report, February 3, 2020
- After joining Stites & Harbison out of law school, Robert Connolly is set to become the firm's chair
  Louisville Business First, December 5, 2014
- Bob Connolly finds that being in a courtroom is a "real rush" when things go well
  Business First of Louisville, July 8, 2011

FIRM LEADERSHIP

- Office of General Counsel, General Counsel (2021-present)
- Chair (2015-21)
- Management Committee (1995-2007)

MEMBERSHIPS

- ABA Committee on Products Liability Litigation,
  - Subcommittee on Discovery
- American Bar Association,
  - Fellow
- American College of Trial Lawyers,
  - Fellow and Chair, Kentucky State Committee

- Defense Research Institute
- Kentucky Bar Association
- Kentucky Defense Counsel,
  - Former Board Member
- Litigation Counsel of America,
  - Order of Justitia
- Louisville Bar Association,
  - Member and past member of the board of directors
- Louisville Bar Foundation, Inc.,
  - Fellow and past president
- Maritime Law Association of the United States
- Trial Law Institute
- Diversity Law Institute

COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT

- Kentucky Legal Education Opportunity (KLEO) Program, Founding Member
- The Nature Conservancy (TNC), Kentucky Chapter, Board of Trustees (2020-present)
- Downtown Louisville Rotary Club, Member
- Jefferson Street Baptist Church, Past President

EDUCATION

- Washington and Lee University School of Law J.D., 1980
- Dartmouth College B.A., with high distinction, Government (Honors), *magna cum laude* 1977

MORE THAN STITES & HARBISON

Mr. Connolly is involved in a number of civic and charitable activities. He is past President of the Board of Directors of the Jefferson Street Baptist Church, a local homeless shelter dedicated to mentally ill and chemically dependent individuals. He is the past President of the Louisville Bar Foundation and a member of Downtown Louisville Rotary Club. Mr. Connolly is a past member of the Dartmouth Alumni Council. Mr. Connolly also enjoys skiing, backpacking and scuba diving.

ACCOLADES

- *Martindale-Hubbell*® AV-Preeminent® Peer Review Rated
- *Chambers USA, "America's Leading Lawyers for Business,"* Litigation: General Commercial and Litigation: Tort & Insurance Defense (2004-26)
- *Best Lawyers in America*®, Bet-the-Company Litigation and Commercial Litigation (2006-27)
- *Best Lawyers in America*®, Louisville Area Lawyer of the Year in Bet-the-Company Litigation (2021)
- *Kentucky Super Lawyers*® (2007-26)
- *Kentucky Super Lawyers*®, Top 50 Attorneys in the State (2011-15, 2017, 2022, 2024)
- Litigation Counsel of America, Senior Fellow