STITES & HARBISON PLLC



Shannon M. Sprinkle

Title: Member

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Shannon Sprinkle is a Member in the Atlanta office and has more than twenty years of diverse litigation experience in both state and federal courts. Shannon is frequently retained before litigation to help evaluate and control exposure to potential claims.

Shannon's core practice focuses on professional malpractice, real estate, and finance related claims. She regularly defends lawyers, accountants, agents, brokers, and other professionals in malpractice, breach of fiduciary duty, and fraud claims. Shannon's extensive professional malpractice background allows her to provide clients with valuable risk management advice and consultation to prevent claims, mitigate exposure and risk, and to respond to licensing, review boards, or other professional governing body inquiries.

Shannon also serves as an outside general counsel for numerous professional service firms, advising on employment issues, employment contracts, and data and privacy breach claims, amongst many other issues. Shannon frequently litigates in these same fields as well, securing many summary judgment, dispositive motion, or trial wins for professional service firms, lenders, and other companies defending employment cases, putative class action claims over alleged violations of consumer protection statutes, and more.

Shannon has also litigated a range of product liability claims, covering everything from recreational sporting equipment to truck and gas pump manufactured parts. She's experienced in handling emergency response site investigations, evidence preservation and spoliation issues, and the myriad of expert issues that arise in product liability matters.

CAPABILITIES

Practice Areas

- Arbitration, Mediation & Alternative Dispute Resolution
- Business Litigation
- Class Action, Mass Action & Multi-District Litigation
- Litigation & Appeals
- Product Liability Litigation
- Professional Liability Litigation
- Privacy & Data Security
- Employment Law
- Employment Litigation

RECENT ASSIGNMENTS

- Successfully defended an AMLAW 200 firm in a legal malpractice case arising from international patent applications. Following a multi-week trial, the jury returned a verdict of less than 1 percent of the damages sought by Plaintiffs.
- Successfully upheld summary judgment grant in favor of international accounting firm on appeal.
- Favorably resolved potential claims brought against auditors arising out of an acquisition transaction avoiding costly litigation.
- Secured settlement for a national law firm resolving claims from bankruptcy trustee and lender arising from a \$25 million dollar defaulted loan avoiding expected litigation in multiple venues.
- Secured pre-answer dismissal in the Middle District of Georgia for claims asserted against a law firm.
- Prevailed on a Motion to Dismiss on behalf of law firm, partner, and former associate.
- Motion to Strike Anti-SLAPP claims affirmed on appeal resulting in fee award to defendant law firm.
- Won a motion to dismiss for a client in a Federal Syndicated Conservation Easement class action filed against 30 different defendants including lawyers, accountants, appraisers, promoters, and engineers. Claims included RICO, malpractice, negligent misrepresentation, breach of fiduciary duty, and fraud. Our client was one of only six defendants who were dismissed by the 251 page order.
- Secured a defense verdict after a two week plus trial for their national law firm client accused of wrongful foreclosure activities and GA RICO claims arising out of an alleged erroneous loan payoff.

- Shannon Sprinkle and Evan Elam secured summary judgment for the U.S. partner of a global accounting firm accused of defamation and tortious interference with contract arising out of an audit engagement.
- Shannon Sprinkle and Dan Millman secured summary judgment for their law firm client accused of malpractice arising out of disputes over a confirmed bankruptcy plan.
- Successfully negotiated a favorable resolution of arbitration claims arising out of alleged failures in a Managed Services Agreement after the claimant suffered a cyber-breach resulting in the misdirected payment of several hundred thousands of dollars in vendor payments.
- Negotiated the successful resolution of legal malpractice claims asserted against a national law firm arising out of the previous settlement of hundreds of FLSA claims totaling several million dollars. The settlement reached for our client was less than the anticipated costs of defense of the claim.
- Shannon Sprinkle and Dan Millman defeated ADA claims against a recruiting firm and a staffing company in Akins, v. Cella, Inc., 2022 WL 688847 (N.D. Ga. July 18, 2022) and Levins v. Connect Staffing, Inc., 2022 WL 2187109 (N.D. Ga. May 31, 2022). In both cases, the court agreed that the employers' termination decisions were lawful and justified based on the employees' actions.

BAR ADMISSIONS

Georgia

RECENT NEWS, ARTICLES & SPEAKING ENGAGEMENTS

<u>Take-Aways from Accountants' Liability 2025 Conference: Navigating the Changing Regulatory Landscape and Risks from Emerging Technologies</u>

Stites & Harbison Client Alert, July 11, 2025

• People on the Move: Shannon M. Sprinkle

by editor, Atlanta Business Chronicle, June 3, 2025

Stites & Harbison Names Litigator As New Atlanta Leader

By Emily Johnson, Law360 Pulse, May 30, 2025

Georgia Legislature Passes Hotly Debated Tort Reform Measures

,with Evan W. Elam Stites & Harbison Client Alert, April 10, 2025

Session IV

panel member, Professional and Ethical Dilemmas in Litigation, State Bar of Georgia, March 27, 2025

Year in Review: Significant Developments in Legal Malpractice Cases of 2024

panelist, Hinshaw's 24th Annual Legal Malpractice & Risk Management (LMRM) Conference, Chicago, March 5, 2025

• 9 legal malpractice trends in 2024

by Danielle Braff, ABA Journal, May 22, 2024

 Despite Tech Vendor's 'Admitted Negligence,' Ex-FisherBroyles Client May Struggle to Recover Damages

by Justin Henry, Reporter, Law.com, April 24, 2024

Litigation Trends

Data Security and Privacy Symposium, Atlanta Bar Association CLE, April 17, 2024

- Nip and Tuck: Timely, Imaginative, and Successful Strategies to Pare a Legal Malpractice co-speaker, Spring 2024 National Legal Malpractice Conference, American Bar Association, New Orleans, La., April 3-5, 2024
- Trends in Non-Malpractice Claims Against Lawyers and Law Firms
 co-speaker, 23rd Annual Legal Malpractice & Risk Management (LMRM) Conference, Chicago, Ill., March 5–7, 2024
- Or They Could Have Fired Deloitte': Embattled CFO Appeals Case, Arguing Auditor Pressed Company Into Firing Him

by Alex Anteau, Daily Report, January 25, 2024

- Statute of Limitations: Lawyers Go Toe-To-Toe
 8th Annual Accounting Risk Management Seminar, Atlanta, November 7, 2023
- Ensuring Enforcement of Electronically Executed Arbitration Agreements ,with Evan W. Elam Stites & Harbison Client Alert, September 25, 2023
- Georgia Court of Appeals Holds that Non-Solicitation-of-Employees Restrictive Covenants Must Have Express Geographic Limitations

, with Daniel B. Millman Stites & Harbison Client Alert, August 10, 2023

- Cheating Clients/Lying Lawyers: A General Counsel's Dilemma panelist, 22nd Annual LMRM Conference, Chicago, March 7–9, 2023
- Incident Preparedness: Developing a Program to Respond to Security Incidents Moderator, Data Security and Privacy Symposium, Atlanta, February 8, 2023
- 7th Annual Accounting Risk Management Seminar
 presented by Stites & Harbison's Accounting Defense Team, Atlanta, GA, October 26, 2022 , with <u>Brian A. Cromer</u>
 and William M. Joseph (Bill)
- Diversity Matters Driving Success in High-Level Decision Making Amongst Lawyers and Clients

Driving Diversity in Law & Leadership Summit, Atlanta, September 14, 2022 , with Jennifer M. Guerra

 Navigating the Intersection of Cyber and Professional Liability SHRM-Atlanta Legal Summit, May 12, 2022

Key Takeaways from the American Bar Association's Cybersecurity & Data Privacy Conference

Stites & Harbison Client Alert, March 28, 2022

Louisville law firm announces big growth in Atlanta

by Jason Thomas, Louisville Business First, January 27, 2022, with <u>Derrick L. Bingham</u>, <u>Julie Comer Cahill</u>, <u>R. Ann Grier, Jennifer M. Guerra, Thomas J. Mihill (TJ) and Daniel B. Millman</u>

 Stites & Harbison Continues Expansion in Atlanta: Lands Commercial Litigation Team of 12 from Copeland, Stair, Kingma & Lovell LLP

Franklinls, January 25, 2022, with Jennifer M. Guerra and Daniel B. Millman

19 Attorneys Move to Stites & Harbison, Rapidly Growing Atlanta Team

by Jacob Polacheck, *Daily Report*, January 25, 2022 ,with <u>Derrick L. Bingham</u>, <u>Julie Comer Cahill</u>, <u>R. Ann Grier</u>, <u>Jennifer M. Guerra</u>, <u>Thomas J. Mihill (TJ)</u> and <u>Daniel B. Millman</u>

Stites & Harbison Adds 19 To Atlanta Team From 2 Firms

Law360, January 24, 2022

Hot Topics in Data Privacy & Cybersecurity

Atlanta Bar Association's By The Hour Series, May 1, 2021

Ethical Considerations for Business Lawyers

38th Annual Business Law Institute, Atlanta, October 31, 2019

FIRM LEADERSHIP

- Atlanta Office Executive Member (May 2025-present)
- Office of General Counsel, Member; Former Ethics Subcommittee Member
- Recruiting Committee, Atlanta Office, Chair

MEMBERSHIPS

- American Bar Association
- State Bar of Georgia
- Atlanta Bar Association,
 - Member At Large
 - Privacy and Cyberspace Law Section, Member
- Professional Liability Underwriting Society

EDUCATION

- Tulane Law School J.D., cum laude 2001
- University of Florida B.A., with honors, 1998

MORE THAN STITES & HARBISON

Prior to joining Stites & Harbison, PLLC, Shannon was the Managing Partner of Copeland, Stair, Kingma & Lovell LLP, a Southeastern civil litigation law firm.

ACCOLADES

- Best Lawyers in America®, Commercial Litigation (2023-26)
- Georgia Super Lawyers, Rising Stars (2006-07, 2009-17)
- The Daily Report, 25 Lawyers On the Rise (2016)