STITES & HARBISON PLLC



Whitney Frazier Watt

Title: Member

Phone: 502-681-0370

Location: Louisville, KY

Email: wwatt@stites.com

Download: vCard

Since beginning her career at Stites & Harbison in 2003, Whitney has developed a wide-ranging litigation practice that includes product liability, toxic torts, mass actions, contract disputes, tortious interference, coverage disputes, and wrongful death. Whitney has taken and defended hundreds of depositions and made countless court appearances, including trials. An experienced defender of mass torts, she is currently responsible for managing a docket of several hundred product liability cases brought by thousands of plaintiffs. Whitney's practice requires daily vigilance and dedication to ensure that a large team of attorneys and paralegals is always focused on the client's best interests.

CAPABILITIES

Practice Areas

- Arbitration, Mediation & Alternative Dispute Resolution
- Litigation & Appeals
- Business Litigation
- Class Action, Mass Action & Multi-District Litigation
- Pretrial Practice & eDiscovery
- Pharmaceuticals & Medical Devices Litigation
- Product Liability Litigation
- Professional Liability Litigation
- Health Care – Litigation & Investigations
- Fire Investigation & Litigation

RECENT ASSIGNMENTS

- Management of serial litigation against a major manufacturer of safety equipment
- Secured summary judgment for a forklift manufacturer in asbestos litigation
- Litigation against a prominent appliances manufacturer
- Trucking litigation, including scene investigation, against a large professional services provider
- Product liability, personal injury, and contract litigation against a moving equipment and storage rental company
- Wrongful death, asbestos, and coverage litigation against a boiler inspection and insurance company
- Breach of contract litigation and negotiations for a healthcare mergers & acquisition advisory firm
- Litigation involving a talc supplier
- Breach of contract, retaliation, and tortious interference litigation against a mental health hospital system
- Litigation against a large motor vehicle manufacturer related to claims arising from fire damage
- Litigation against a supplier of chemicals and ingredients used in flavors, fragrances, food, and beverages

BAR ADMISSIONS

- Kentucky
- 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

RECENT NEWS, ARTICLES & SPEAKING ENGAGEMENTS

- IADC Announces 2026-2027 Board of Directors Members
  IADC News, July 2026
- Peter Pizzi and Whitney Frazier Watt to Lead 2026 CLE Efforts

by editor, International Association of Defense Counsel (IADC) newsletter, March 3, 2025

- 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 Robert M. Connolly*

- Opening and Closing Remarks

  Program Co-Chair, 2024 Product Liability Roundtable, International Association of Defense Counsel (IADC), September 12, 2024

- Brandee J. Kowalzyk and Whitney Frazier Watt to Lead 2024 Product Liability Roundtable

  IADC Newsletter, August 5, 2024

- Forever Chemicals - The Latest in an Ever Changing Landscape

  IADC (International Association of Defense Counsel) 2024 Mid-Year Meeting, Miami, Fla., February 18-23, 2024

- Defusing Nuclear Verdicts Prior to Trial

  co-author, International Association of Defense Counsel (IADC) Product Liability Newsletter, January 2024

- Managing External Counsel

  Moderator, IADC Corporate Counsel Training Academy, Chicago, IL, April 6, 2022

- Is Quarantine to Blame for Increased Consumer Litigation?

  Panel Member, 2021 Women in Litigation Joint CLE Conference, ABA Litigation Section, November 17-19, 2021

- 4th Circ. Says ‘Unfair’ Va. Law Forces It To Nix Black Lung Suit

  ,with Carol Dan Browning and Bethany A. Breetz By Sarah Jarvis, Law360, November 9, 2020

- Using Bankruptcy to Your Client’s Advantage

  IADC Committee Newsletter, Product Liability, June 2020

- Defense Strategies for Winning on the Statute of Limitations

  American Bar Association, *Products Liability Litigation Newsletter*, August 2019 *,with Robin E. McGuffin*

- Design Thinking for Litigators

  ,with Jennifer Henry Jackson IADC Committee Newsletter, Product Liability, June 2019

- Refinery's Blast Coverage Claim Blown Up by Own Expert

  by Jeff Sistrunk, Law360, May 3, 2019 *,with Bethany A. Breetz*

- How to Win on Statute of Limitations

  Speaker, IADC Mid-Year Meeting, Santa Barbara, CA, February 2019

- Daubert: Trends and Statistics

  IADC Committee Newsletter, Product Liability, November 2017 *,with Emily Larish Startsman*

- Trial Skills, Trial-Focused Discovery: What You Need & How to Use It

  Speaker, ABA Women in Products Liability CLE, Philadelphia, PA, November 2016

- Chapter 2: Preparation for Trial & Organization of Trial Materials

  Co-author, *Kentucky Civil Practice at Trial*, 3rd and 4th Editions, UK/CLE, 2008 and 2016

- Time for a Makeover: Newly Proposed Cosmetic Safety Litigation

  ABA Products Liability Website, 2015

- Five Things Every Businesswoman Should Know About Contracts
  MBA Women, 2015
- The Good, the Bad, and the Ugly: Products Liability Year in Review
  Speaker, 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 J. Brittany Cross Carlson*
- 50-State Survey on Statute of Limitations
  Co-author, Kentucky section, American Bar Association, 2012
- Ethical Considerations for Using Technology in Your Practice
  Moderator, ABA Women in Products Liability CLE, New York, NY, November 2010
- Avoiding Discovery Pitfalls - How to Manage Your Document Productions and Reviews in a Way that Will Satisfy Your Client and Win Your Case
  Moderator, ABA Joint Products Liability, Mass Torts & Environmental CLE, Beaver Creek, Colo., January 2010
- Litigating in the Face of E-Discovery Rules: Post-Implementation Perspectives and Practice Tips
  Moderator, ABA Women in Products Liability CLE, New Orleans, La., October 2007

MEMBERSHIPS

- International Association of Defense Counsel (IADC),
  - Board of Directors (July 2026 - Present)
  - Chair of Annual Meeting CLE Steering Committee (2025-2026 – Prague, Czech Republic)
  - IADC Product Liability Roundtable Committee Co-Chair (2023-2024 – Johnson & Johnson, New Brunswick, NJ) Member (2024-2025 – Bayer, Whippany, NJ) Member and IADC CLE Committee Liaison (2025-2026 – Pfizer, New York, NY)
  - Product Liability Committee Chair (2023-2025) Vice Chair of Programs & Projects (2021-23) Vice Chair of Special Projects (2020-21) Vice Chair of Webinars (2019-20) Vice Chair of Newsletter (2017-19)
  - Diversity, Equity, Inclusion & Belonging Committee Vice Chair of Empowerment Collaborative (2022-2023) Vice Chair of Member Involvement (2021-22)
- American Bar Association,
  - Women in Product Liability Subcommittee
  - Former Chair (2013-14)
- Defense Research Institute

- Trial Attorneys of America
- Kentucky Bar Association
- Louisville Bar Association

COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT

- Kentucky Governor's Scholar Program, Board of Directors (2020-present)
- Girl Scouts - Troop 2166, Co-Leader
- Whitehall House & Gardens, Board of Regents; Vice Regent (2024-present); Secretary (2019-20)

EDUCATION

- University of Kentucky College of Law J.D., 2003
- Davidson College B.A., English, 2000
- Oxford University, Lincoln College European Studies Program - Classics, 1998

ACCOLADES

- *Martindale-Hubbell*® AV-Preeminent® Peer Review Rated
- *Best Lawyers in America*®, Commercial Litigation, Mass Tort Litigation / Class action - Defendants; Product Liability Litigation - Defendants (2020-27)
- *Kentucky Super Lawyers*® (2015-26)
- *Kentucky Super Lawyers*®, Rising Star (2013-14)
- Forty under 40 List, *Business First of Louisville* (2013)