



Conner G. Whitten

Associate

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Conner Whitten is a litigation associate in Baker Donelson's Jackson office and a member of the Advocacy Department. His practice primarily focuses on sophisticated litigation matters across various industries, including complex commercial disputes, class action lawsuits, and government enforcement and investigations. He also has significant experience defending private suits and government investigations under the Packers and Stockyards Act.

Mr. Whitten represents a variety of clients in complex commercial litigation and has extensive experience defending employment discrimination claims, antitrust actions, fiduciary-related matters, and collection actions involving significant electronic discovery issues and complex factual and legal issues. He also defends individuals and entities investigated or charged with various white-collar crimes, including financial fraud, as well as investigations and lawsuits brought under the Federal False Claims Act.

In addition to his litigation practice, Mr. Whitten regularly assists clients with appropriately addressing and limiting the risks associated with difficult employment issues, federal and state investigations, contract disputes, and regulatory and environmental compliance.

Prior to joining Baker Donelson, Mr. Whitten worked as a business law fellow in the regulatory division of Entergy Mississippi, where he gained experience in regulatory law within the energy sector. He was also a legal extern for the United States District Court, Northern District of Mississippi, and he interned with the Mississippi Public Service Commission.

Representative Matters

- Advising a financial institution on a project comprised of a multimillion-dollar solar and energy development concerning federal and state environmental, regulatory, and energy compliance, including compliance with Federal Aviation Administration rules and regulations.
- Defending a poultry processor in a multi-defendant class action against a putative nationwide class of broiler growers bringing claims under antitrust laws and the Packers and Stockyards Act alleging suppression of broiler grower compensation by the industry through information sharing and/or no poach or non-solicitation agreements.
- Representing corporate fiduciary in defending claims made by beneficiaries related to the administration of two trusts and the investment of the trusts' assets over several decades. Issues include a trustee's authority to adjust between principal and income under the Power to Adjust Statute, application of the relevant statute of limitations applicable to beneficiary claims, the enforcement of beneficiary releases, and management of certain trust assets.
- Defending a poultry processor in a multi-defendant class action against a putative nationwide class of hourly and salaried poultry workers bringing claims under antitrust laws alleging suppression of plant worker compensation and/or benefits by the industry through information sharing.
- Defending persons accused of submitting false claims for payment to the federal government in a *qui tam* action involving allegations of Medicare and other financial fraud filed under the False Claims Act.
- Advised a financial institution regarding permitting and licensing requirements required by federal and state environmental, regulatory, and energy laws concerning the development of a multimillion-dollar solar project.

- Represented a housing authority in litigation comprised of 16 individual tax sale confirmation lawsuits concerning an \$18 million affordable housing deal on behalf of a joint venture of two non-profit housing developers for the demolition and redevelopment of an aging and deteriorating 80-unit public housing facility in Mississippi.
- Successfully briefed and defended a judgment in favor of a financial institution, affirmed on appeal by the Supreme Court of Mississippi.
- Secured the dismissal of a lawsuit in favor of a financial lender involving allegations of wrongful foreclosure, breach of contract, and breach of the duty of good faith and fair dealing.
- Defended an emergency services provider in a breach of contract action arising from a commercial transaction involving the acquisition of a commercial entity.
- Defended a poultry processor in a lawsuit brought by a former independent contractor alleging discrimination under 42 U.S.C. § 1981, fraud, breach of contract, retaliation, and violation of Packers and Stockyard Act.
- Obtained summary judgment in favor of a commercial freight corporation in a lawsuit filed by a former employee alleging a federal claim of race discrimination in violation of 42 U.S.C. 1981 and state law claims of defamation, wrongful termination, and intentional infliction of emotional distress, which was affirmed by the United States Court of Appeals for the Fifth Circuit.



Professional Honors & Activities

- Selected to Mid-South Rising Stars for Business Litigation (2024)
- Capital Area Bar Association
 - Committee on Law-Related Education
- Mississippi Bar Association
 - Board Member, Jackson Young Lawyers Division (2024)
 - Bar Admissions Ceremony Committee Member (2023)
- American Cancer Society
 - Honoree (2024)
- Mississippi Children's Museum
 - Committee Chair (2024)
- Diabetes Foundation of Mississippi
 - Committee Chair (2023 – 2024)
- *The Record*
 - 20 Under 40 Successful Alumni (2022)
- American Bar Association
 - Vice-Chair – Pharmaceutical, Medical Device and Bioscience General Committee (2019 – 2020)
 - Vice-Chair – Toxic Torts and Environmental Law General Committee (2019 – 2020)



Speaking Engagements

- Presenter – "Fair Housing," Southeastern Regional Council-National Association of Housing and Redevelopment Officials (SERC-NAHRO) Annual Conference (June 2024)
- Presenter – "Ethics," SERC-NAHRO Annual Conference (June 2024)



Education

- University of Mississippi School of Law, J.D., 2021, summa cum laude
 - Business Editor – *Mississippi Sports Law Review*, 2020 – 2021
 - Chair – Negotiation Board, 2020 – 2021
 - Staff Editor – *Mississippi Sports Law Review*, 2019 – 2020
 - Member – Moot Court Board, 2019 – 2020
- Mississippi State University, B.B.A., 2017, summa cum laude



Admissions

- Mississippi, 2021
- U.S. Court of Appeals for the Fifth Circuit
- U.S. District Courts for the Northern and Southern Districts of Mississippi
- U.S. Bankruptcy Courts for the Northern and Southern Districts of Mississippi