



Conner G. Whitten

Associate

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Conner Whitten is an associate in Baker Donelson's Jackson office and a member of the Advocacy Department.

Mr. Whitten represents a variety of clients in complex commercial litigation. As a member of the Advocacy Department, he has a wide range of experience defending employment discrimination claims, antitrust actions, fiduciary-related matters, and collection actions involving significant electronic discovery issues and complex factual and legal issues. Mr. Whitten also defends individuals and entities investigated or charged with various white-collar crimes, including financial fraud, 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 for the regulatory division of Entergy Mississippi where he gained experience in regulatory law in the energy sector. He was also a legal extern for the United States District Court, Northern District of Mississippi, and he was an intern for the Mississippi Public Service Commission.

Representative Matters

- 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.
- Defended an emergency services provider in a breach of contract action arising from a commercial transaction involving the acquisition of commercial entity.
- Defended poultry processor in lawsuit brought by 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

- Capital Area Bar Association
 - Committee on Law-Related Education
- Mississippi Bar Association
 - Bar Admissions Ceremony Committee Member (2023)
- 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)



Publications

- "Pro Bono Collaboration – Part 2," *Diversity Matters Newsletter* (Fall 2022)



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 Court for the Northern and Southern Districts of Mississippi
- U.S. Bankruptcy Court for the Northern and Southern Districts of Mississippi