



William M. Starr

Shareholder

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Bill Starr focuses his practice on aviation, toxic torts, products liability, and premises liability.

Mr. Starr represents clients throughout state and federal courts of North Carolina with a focus on aviation. His clients include some of the world's largest airlines as well as fixed-base operators, certified repair stations, general aviation facilities, and manufacturers of aviation-related components.

Mr. Starr also focuses his practice on products liability and routinely represents manufacturers and suppliers of industrial equipment, vehicles, and operator/passenger restraints. He regularly handles wrongful death and catastrophic/personal injury cases stemming from products liability and toxic tort claims, as well as claims pursuant to international treaties such as the Montreal and Warsaw Conventions.

Representative Matters

- Obtained dismissals during pleadings stages in multiple cases asserted against some of the nation's largest airlines in claims of personal injury and wrongful death.
- Prevailed on Rule 12 motion to dismiss in a case against an international air carrier asserting claims of discrimination and emotional distress.
- Obtained dismissals on behalf of multiple airlines on grounds of preemption in cases of injury sustained in the course of international travel.
- Awarded summary judgment in multiple cases of asbestos exposure asserted against manufacturers of a bevy of industrial equipment including, pumps, valves, boilers, steam traps, and gaskets.

Professional Honors & Activities

- Recipient – Commitment to Justice Award, Safe Alliance (2025)
- Pro Bono Lawyer of the Year – Safe Alliance (2024)
- Pro Bono Star – Safe Alliance (2023)
- Listed on the Legal 500 for Dispute resolution: Product liability, mass tort, and class action – defense: toxic tort (2021 – 2022)
- Board of Directors – North Carolina Association of Defense Attorneys (2017 – 2019)
 - Chair – Products Liability Committee (2015)
 - Vice-chair – Products Liability Committee (2014)
- Selected to North Carolina Rising Stars in Aviation and Aerospace (2013, 2017 – 2018)
- Member – North Carolina Pro Bono Resource Center, North Carolina Pro Bono Honor Society (2017 – 2019)
- Listed as a "Legal Elite Young Gun" by *Business North Carolina* (2011, 2013)
- Member – Mecklenburg County Bar Association
- Corporate Counsel Committee – American Bar Association
 - Former North Carolina State Liaison
- Member – [Baker Donelson's 24-Hour Transportation Emergency Response Team](#)

Speaking Engagements

- Panelist – "Aviation Legal Forum" (January 2025)
- "The Importance and Methods of Pre-Suit Investigation," 2022 Annual Conference of National Association for Legal Support Professionals (September 2022)



Education

- University of North Carolina School of Law, J.D., 2003
- State University of New York College at Geneseo, B.A., 2000



Admissions

- North Carolina, 2003