



Thomas O. Helton

Senior Counsel

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An experienced litigator, T.O. Helton concentrates his practice in health care, long term care, products liability, intellectual property (patents and trade secrets) and construction.

Mr. Helton is certified as a Civil Trial Specialist by the Tennessee Commission on Continuing Legal Education, as a Civil Pretrial Practice Advocate by the National Board of Civil Trial Practice Advocacy and as a Rule 31 Listed General Civil Mediator. He was a law clerk to Frank Gray, Jr., U.S. District Judge, Middle District of Tennessee from 1966 – 1967. From 1967 – 1968, he was a law clerk for Paul C. Weick, Chief Judge, U.S. Court of Appeals, Sixth Circuit.

Representative Matters

- Defended national restaurant chain in lawsuit where hourly employees of a restaurant company sued to recover unpaid wages and overtime because they were allegedly forced to work "off the clock." The case was conditionally certified and settled after years of litigation.
- Defended national restaurant chain against claims filed by restaurant managers to recover unpaid overtime alleging that they were misclassified as exempt due to the employer's policy of docking their pay for cash shortages and damaged or missing property. The case was conditionally certified and settled after years of litigation.

Professional Honors & Activities

- Listed in every edition of *The Best Lawyers in America*® since 1983; Currently listed in Medical Malpractice Law, Mass Tort Litigation, Product Liability Litigation, Intellectual Property Litigation, Patent Litigation, Bet-the-Company Litigation and Commercial Litigation
- Named the *Best Lawyers'* 2013 Chattanooga Bet-the-Company Litigation "Lawyer of the Year"
- Listed in *Mid-South Super Lawyers* since 2007
- Listed in *Mid-South Super Lawyers* as one of the top 100 Tennessee attorneys (2018)
- Member – Chattanooga (President, 1980 – 1981), Tennessee (Member, Board of Governors, 1985 – 1994), and American (Member, Litigation Section) Bar Associations, and the State Bar of Georgia
- Fellow – Tennessee and Chattanooga Bar Foundations

Education

- Vanderbilt University, LL.B., 1966
- University of Tennessee, B.S., 1963

Admissions

- Tennessee, 1966
- Georgia, 1976