



## Sye T. Hickey

Associate

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Sye T. Hickey focuses on complex business litigation for the financial services industry and also represents clients in matters involving product liability disputes, insurance, and government and internal investigations.

The main focus of Sye T. Hickey's practice is complex commercial litigation for the financial services industry. Mr. Hickey has experience representing banks, creditors, lenders, and other various financial institutions in an array of matters, including broker-dealer litigation, business tort litigation, class action defense, consumer finance litigation (FDCPA), consumer protection litigation (state consumer protection and TCPA), and securities litigation. He has represented individual, local, state, and national clients at the trial and appellate levels, including matters in state and federal court and arbitration panels under AAA, JAMS, and FINRA.

The remainder of Mr. Hickey's practice covers business litigation, government and internal investigations, insurance matters, and product and premises liability disputes. He has worked with clients in the automotive, commercial real estate, government contracting, health care, hospitality, manufacturing, residential housing, and pharmaceutical, and technology industries, among others.

Mr. Hickey serves as a member of the firm-wide diversity committee and the Nashville office recruitment committee. Prior to joining Baker Donelson, Mr. Hickey worked at a large regional firm in Charlotte, North Carolina, where he mostly handled complex business litigation and government and internal investigations.

While attending the University of Tennessee College of Law, Mr. Hickey served as a prosecutorial extern with the United States Attorney's Office for the Eastern District of Tennessee. As a third-year law student, he successfully argued the first application of the U.S.S.G. § 2D1.1(b)(12) enhancement in the Eastern District of Tennessee and prevailed on a mandatory minimum sentencing argument to the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Sixth Circuit.

Before attending law school, Mr. Hickey served as an intern for the late United States Senator Jim Bunning (R-KY) in Washington, D.C.

### Representative Matters

- Successfully obtained a dismissal in Tennessee state court on behalf of a Fortune 15 technology company in a premises liability dispute.
- Successfully represented and obtained favorable outcomes and resolutions for Fortune 500 financial service firm in Financial Industry Regulatory Authority broker-dealer arbitrations.
- Successfully obtained a dismissal in U.S. District Court and sustained judgment in appeal to the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Sixth Circuit on behalf of a Fortune 250 bank in a civil dispute involving claims for tortious interference, misrepresentation, Fair Debt Collection Practices Act, and civil rights violations.
- Successfully obtained a dismissal in Tennessee state court and a sustained judgment in appeal to the Tennessee Court of Appeals on behalf of a national lending company in a civil dispute involving claims for fraud and wrongful foreclosure.

- Successfully obtained a summary judgment in adversarial proceedings in U.S. Bankruptcy Court on behalf of a logistics company against defendant seeking discharge under Chapter 7 of the Bankruptcy Code.
- Successfully defended a local bank in a Tennessee state court class action dispute involving allegations related to overdraft fees.
- Successfully obtained a dismissal in U.S. District Court on behalf of an individual in a civil dispute brought by a national guitar manufacturing company for involving claims for conversion, breach of contract, and breach of bailment.
- Successfully set aside conditional judgments in Tennessee state court on behalf of a Fortune 100 financial services firm.
- Successfully obtained a summary judgment in Tennessee state court on behalf of a multinational auto parts manufacturer in a premises liability dispute.
- Successfully obtained a dismissal and summary judgment in U.S. District Courts and Tennessee state courts on behalf of a Fortune 500 hospitality brand in civil disputes involving claims for fraud, breach of contract, and violations of the Tennessee Timeshare Act.
- Successfully obtained a dismissal in U.S. District Court on behalf of individual and corporate clients in civil disputes involving claims for fraudulent inducement, tortious interference, and violations of the Virginia Business Conspiracy Act.
- Successfully represented and obtained judgments in summary ejectment and detainer warrant actions on behalf of commercial landlord in civil disputes involving breaches of lease, breaches of contract, and guarantor liability.
- Successfully briefed, argued, and prevailed in pro bono juvenile appeals before the North Carolina Court of Appeals and Supreme Court of North Carolina.
- Successfully assisted in representation of a multinational auto parts manufacturing company under investigation by the U.S. Department of Justice, which resulted in no enforcement action.
- Successfully assisted in government and internal investigations for private companies across multiple industries, including banking and finance, government contracts, housing, and pharmaceuticals.
- Successfully quashed and dismissed multiple state and federal court subpoenas on behalf of individual and corporate clients across multiple jurisdictions.
- Won a motion to dismiss for a national bank in a wire fraud case based on alleged misrepresentations by a bank employee.



## Professional Honors & Activities

- Named a *Best Lawyers in America*® "Ones to Watch" in Banking and Finance Litigation (2021, 2022)
- Listed in *Mid-South Super Lawyers* as a Rising Star in Business Litigation (2018 – 2021)
- Member – Tennessee Bar Association
- Member – North Carolina State Bar
- Member – Nashville Bar Association
- Chief Justice William H. Bobbitt American Inn of Court
- Former Member – University of Tennessee College of Law Alumni Council
- Former Member – University of Kentucky Young Alumni
- Nashville Young Leaders Council, Class 68
- Leadership Council on Legal Diversity, Pathfinder, Class of 2017
- Member – Asian Pacific American Bar Association
- Former Intern, Board of Directors – Catholic Charities of Tennessee, Inc.
- Named a Tennessee Supreme Court Attorney for Justice (2017)



## Publications

- "A Young Lawyer's Tips and Tricks for Defending Financial Institutions," *Trial Spotlight Newsletter* (June 2019), republished in *Westlaw Journal Bank & Lender Liability* (July 2019)
- "CFPB Argues Incorrect Debt Amount to Lawyer Violates FDCPA," *Collection Advisor* (August 2017)
- "CFPB: Incorrect Representations Regarding Debt Amounts are Actionable, Even if Made to a Consumer's Lawyer" (May 2017)
- "To Compete or Not to Compete: Is That the Question?," *ABA Business Torts & Unfair Competition Journal* (September 2014)
- "*Anchor Pipe Co. v. Sweeney-Bronze Development, LLC*," *14 Tennessee Journal of Business Law* 267 (2013)



## Speaking Engagements

- "Broker-Dealer/Registered Investment Adviser Legal and Compliance Update," Webinar (September 2021)
- Co-presenter – "Criminal and Regulatory Law for Your Corporate Practice: Practical Advice for Companies to Avoid or Deal with Federal Investigations," Law Firm Presentation, Raleigh, North Carolina (July 2015)
- Co-presenter – "Government Investigations: A Practical Guide," Law Firm Presentation, Charlotte, North Carolina (September 2014)
- Co-presenter – "Scrubs or Stripes: Government Investigations of Corporations and Individuals," North Carolina Bar Association Health Law Section Annual Meeting, Cary, North Carolina (April 2014)



## Education

- University of Tennessee College of Law, J.D., 2013
  - *Tennessee Law Review*, Research Editor
  - *Transactions: Tennessee Journal on Business Law*, Third-Year Editor
  - Elsie Naomi Jones Scholarship
- University of Kentucky, B.S. in Business and Economics, 2009



## Admissions

- North Carolina, 2013
- Tennessee, 2014
- U.S. Court of Appeals for the Fourth Circuit
- U.S. Court of Appeals for the Sixth Circuit
- U.S. District Court for the Eastern District of North Carolina
- U.S. District Court for the Western District of North Carolina
- U.S. District Court for the Eastern District of Tennessee
- U.S. District Court for the Middle District of Tennessee
- U.S. District Court for the Western District of Tennessee
- U.S. District Court for the Eastern District of Texas