

DICKINSON WRIGHT PLLC
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Stephen K. Heard

Member

Areas of Practice Emphasis

- Alternative Dispute Resolution
- Commercial & Business Litigation
- Construction
- Products Liability Litigation
- Insurance
- Workers' Compensation

Prominent Assignments

- Successfully defended an industrial machine manufacturer in a wrongful death product liability action seeking \$10M in damages.
- Successfully defended a software corporation in a breach of contract action brought by former owner seeking damages under theories of successor corporation liability. Suit was dismissed on Motion for Summary Judgment.
- Successfully defended a building materials supplier in a residential construction case where supplier was accused of negligently drafting plans and specifications which, when implemented by a general contractor, resulted in defective construction. Cause of action against the supplier was dismissed on a Motion for Summary Judgment.
- Represented a class of physical therapy students against a university on theories of breach of contract, willful and negligent misrepresentations and violation of the Consumer Protection Act. The university failed to obtain certification of its physical therapy program which resulted in damages to the students. The case was tried to a jury and Judge, resulting in a judgment in favor of the students in excess of \$1.3M.
- Represented a former employee of a printing company in an age discrimination case against that entity. The case was tried to a Judge and jury and resulted in a judgment in favor of the employee in excess of \$500K.
- Have tried hundreds of lawsuits in both jury and bench trials in state and federal courts.
- Represented various insurance companies in direct actions, bad faith claims, coverage disputes, and have represented insurance carriers' insured's in civil litigation matters, including motor vehicle accidents, construction disputes, violations of the Fair Debt Collection Practices Act, medical malpractice claims, products liability claims, and premises liability actions.
- Successfully defended national fast food chains in suits alleging food borne illnesses and food contamination by foreign object. Have tried such suits to defense verdicts in both state and federal courts.

- Successfully defended a National health care provider and various physicians in medical malpractice suits.
- Have handled over 1,000 workers' compensation cases in the State of Tennessee, inclusive of Department of Labor mandated mediations, court of record trials, appeals through the Supreme Court Workers' Compensation Panel and the full Supreme Court.

Education

- J.D., Emory University School of Law, Atlanta, Georgia, 1980
- B.A., University of North Carolina, 1976

Admitted to Practice

- Tennessee, 1980
- Georgia, 1980
- U.S. Court of Appeals, Sixth Circuit
- U.S. District Court, Western District of Tennessee, 2006
- U.S. District Court, Middle District of Tennessee, 1980
- U.S. District Court, Eastern District of Tennessee, 2004
- U.S. District Court, Northern District of Georgia, 1980
- U.S. Court of Appeals, Eleventh Circuit, 2007
- U.S. Supreme Court, 2006

Professional and Community Involvement

- Rule 31 Mediator, Tennessee Supreme Court ADR, 2001
- Member, Nashville Bar Association
- Member, Tennessee Bar Association
- Member, American Bar Association
- Member, State Bar of Georgia
- Member, Tennessee Defense Lawyers Association
- International Association of Defense Counsel
 - Employment Law Committee Chairman from 1993 to 1995
 - Member of Medical Malpractice Committee
 - Member of Products Liability, Drug Device, and Biotechnology Committee
- Member, The Defense Research and Trial Lawyers Association
- Founding Member, Tennessee Association of Construction Counsel
- Founding Member, American College of Equine Attorneys
- Member, Transportation Lawyers Association
- Member, Iroquois Steeplechase Race Committee (Executive Committee Member) of the Volunteer State Horseman's Foundation, a 501(c)(3) entity benefiting the Monroe Carroll Vanderbilt Children's Hospital

- Served on Board of Saddle Up! a 501(c)(3) corporation providing a riding program for physically and mentally challenged children. (Served as Co-chair of the Capital Campaign that successfully raised funds to secure the organization a permanent facility and retire the mortgage on same)

Publications and Presentations

- Have participated in numerous seminars as a presenter and author of seminar materials in areas of Americans with Disability Act, Workers' Compensation, EEOC, Uninsured Motorist Law, Comparative Fault, Retaliatory Discharge, Examination of the Medical Expert, American Medical Association Guides to Evaluation of Permanent Impairment (5th Edition), and American Medical Association Guides to Evaluation of Permanent Impairment (6th Edition).
- Contributing author of Independent Contractor Status, State by State Legal Guide, Employment Law Library from Wiley Law Publications.
- Faculty Member, Defense Lawyers Trial Academy

Acknowledgements

- Who's Who Professional of the Year in Law/Workers' Compensation, 2007
- Martindale Hubbell AV Peer Review Rated for ethical standards and legal ability

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