PRESENTS TENNESSEE'S TOP RATED LAWYERS OF 2013

TENNESSEE'S PREEMINENT

THE STATE'S TOP RATED LAWYERS OF 2013

PAGE 3

ALSO INSIDE

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STARTING A BUSINESS: SELECTING A GOOD LAWYER PAGE 4

DUI TRIAL PROCESS PAGE 6



PRESENTS

LEGAL PEADERS

APPEARING WITH

CORPORATE COUNSEL

LAW JOURNAL

AMERICAN LAWYER

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Welcome to Tennessee's Top Rated Lawyers, a leading publication featuring legal talent found across the state.

The attorneys featured in this publication and our companion online edition have all achieved the peer reviewed rating of AV Preeminent® by Martindale-Hubbell®, the company that has long set the standard for lawyer ratings. The AV Preeminent® rating is a significant accomplishment and a testament to the fact that a lawyer's peers rank him or her at the highest level of professional excellence.

In addition to presenting profiles of many of these Top Rated attorneys, this publication features articles on current trends in the law as well as helpful tips on finding and working successfully with lawyers and law firms. We hope you will keep it handy as a valuable resource in finding top legal talent and to assist you in making more informed legal decisions.

Also, please be sure to visit our online edition of Tennessee's Legal Leaders at www.law.com/Tennesseetoprated to find a directory of all of Tennessee's AV Preeminent® rated attorneys listed by their practice areas.

Sincerely,

Steve Andreazza

Vice President, Inside Sales

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HIGHLIGHTS IN THIS ISSUE:

3 TENNESSEE'S TOP RATED LAWYERS

When you need representation, these attorneys are available to help.

4 STARTING A BUSINESS: SELECTING A GOOD LAWYER

Starting a business without the advice of legal counsel can be a mistake. Here are tips for selecting the right lawyer for your business,

6 DUI TRIAL PROCESS

A brief overview of legal proceedings involving Operating While Intoxicated laws.



PRESENTS TENNESSEE'S TOP RATED LAWYERS OF 2013

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TENNESSEE'S TOP RATED LAWYERS

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D. MICHAEL

LAW MEDIATION

Page 7

BANKING COMMERCIAL

LITIGATION, CORPORATE

TRANUM

BUXTON LAW FIRM GEORGE H. BUXTON

PERSONAL INJURY, BUSINESS LITIGATION, WORKERS' COMPENSATION Page 5

CORBETT CROCKETT W. LEE CORBETT

BUSINESS & COMMERCIAL, REAL ESTATE, ESTATE PLANNING

Page 8

CRONE & McEVOY PLC ALAN G. CRONE

LABOR & EMPLOYMENT, INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY, COMPLIANCE, LITIGATION, COMPLEX COMMERCIAL

Page 5

ERIC BUCHANAN & ASSOCIATES, PLLC

DISABILITY INSURANCE, ERISA EMPLOYEE BENEFITS, SOCIAL SECURITY DISABILITY Page 8

GARZA LAW FIRM, PLLC MARCOS M. GARZA

PERSONAL INJURY, CRIMINAL DEFENSE, DUI/DWI DEFENSE Page 8

KIZER & BLACK ATTORNEYS, PLLC

CML LITIGATION, WILLS & ESTATES, REAL ESTATE Page 7

LACY, PRICE & WAGNER, P.C. BAYMOND F. "BAY" LACY

BUSINESS, LITIGATION, REAL ESTATE

Page 8

LAW OFFICE OF ROB MCKINNEY

CRIMINAL & DUI DEFENSE
Page 3

LAW OFFICE OF RUSSELL F. THOMAS

DUI, CRIMINAL LAW, DOMESTIC VIOLENCE Page 5

LAW OFFICES OF GALLIGAN & NEWMAN

MICHAEL GALLIGAN

PERSONAL INJURY, MEDICAL MALPRACTICE, CML RIGHTS, LABOR & EMPLOYMENT

LONG, RAGSDALE & WATERS, P.C.

Page 5

REAL ESTATE, BANK & EQUITY FINANCING Page 8

MURFREE & MURFREE, PLLC

BRICKE MURFREE
REAL ESTATE LAW,
TRUST & ESTATES AND
ESTATE ADMINISTRATION,
BUSINESS & COMMERCIAL
LAW

PITTS & LAKE, P.C. BOB PITTS

Page 8

INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY
LITIGATION, LICENSING
Page 8

ROGERS, KAMM & SHEA

HELEN SFIKAS ROGERS

CIVIL LAW, FAMILY LAW
Page 7

ROSE IMMIGRATION LAW FIRM, PLC LINDA ROSE

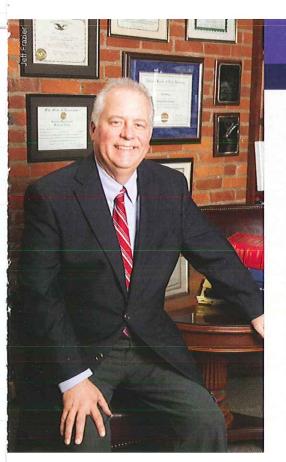
IMMIGRATION LAW,
BUSINESS IMMIGRATION
Page 8

THE LAW OFFICE OF

PERSONAL INJURY, MEDICAL MALPRACTICE, PRODUCTS LIABILITY Page 8

WALKER TIPPS AND MALONE PLC

BUSINESS LITIGATION,
PLAINTIFF'S PERSONAL
INJURY LITIGATION
Page 7



LAW OFFICE OF ROB MCKINNEY

DUI, CRIMINAL LAW, DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

Rob McKinney is a Nashville criminal defense attorney who has dedicated his entire legal career to defending the rights of the accused. Since 1994, McKinney has stood up for clients charged with felony and misdemeanor crimes in Tennessee; and whether he is handling a case involving drunk driving or a violent crime, McKinney works hard to see each matter from his client's point of view.

"I care about my clients and I try to solve their problems," McKinney says. "They are great folks who are going through difficult times. Some are falsely accused. I guide them through a legal process that can be frightening and confusing so that they can get their lives back on track."

A graduate of the prestigious Gerry Spence Trial Lawyers College, Rob McKinney does not hesitate to take cases to trial to defend his clients' rights. He has extensively studied trial practice and actively uses focus groups for trial preparation in order to better serve his clients. Staying on

the cutting edge, Rob has attended classes at the American Chemical Society on Gas Chromatography. Rob is also an instructor in standardized field sobriety tests. He has been active in criminal defense issues and is a past president of the Tennessee Association of Criminal Defense Lawyers.

"We will not simply escort you before the judge and automatically plead you guilty," emphasizes McKinney, who is AV Preeminent® rated by Martindale-Hubbell®, the organization's highest rating for legal ability and ethical standards. "Instead, we will combat the charges against you in every way possible."

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STARTING A BUSINESS: SELECTING A GOOD LAWYER

starting a business without the advice of legal counsel can be a big mistake. If you don't already have a lawyer representing your interests, this checklist will help you find a prime candidate.

There are basically two types of business lawyers: those who handle lawsuits (called business litigators) and those who primarily handle corporate and contract matters (called transactional lawyers). Some lawyers do both, but most of them tend to specialize in one area or the other. So if you are forming a new

If you are starting up a small business where the ownership will be closely held and the organizational issues may not be too complicated, a sole practitioner or a lawyer in general practice may do a very good job in representing your interests."

business, a lawyer who handles business transactions may be your best bet.

If you are starting up a small business where the ownership will be closely held and the organizational issues may not be too complicated, a sole practitioner or a lawyer in general practice may do a very good job in representing your interests. But it's worthwhile to try to look to the future needs of your business as it continues to grow. For example, think about retaining a lawyer or a law firm with expertise in areas that may better cover all of your anticipated business needs. It may be a good idea to look at a "full service" firm that does both transactions and litigation. It would also be to your benefit to

have access to lawyers with expertise in other law areas affecting your business (for example, labor or employment law, tax law, real estate law, banking and finance or IP).

You will probably want to hire a lawyer with at least a few years of experience. Look for lawyers that have experience in representing the type of business that you have or that you will be going into.

Look to see if a lawyer is affiliated with associations that cater to legal issues affecting businesses. For example, most bar associations have sections in business law and other related categories. Having a lawyer who is involved in a chamber of commerce or other local organizations may also be a good sign, depending on the your legal needs.

Unless there are special circumstances, you'll want to hire a lawyer who is licensed to practice law in your state and has an office located near your principal place of business. Special circumstances where you may have to go out of town would include a situation where local attorneys don't specialize in the area where you have legal needs, or where you're planning on expanding operations to another location.

CONDUCT INITIAL SCREENINGS TO NARROW YOUR LIST DOWN TO A FEW PROSPECTIVE CANDIDATES;

- Does the lawyer appear to have expertise in forming business organizations (for example, corporations, partnerships, limited liability companies, sole proprietorships)? Does he or she profess to have expertise with start-up ventures?
- Look for a list of representative clients.
 Does the lawyer represent other businesses similar to yours?
- Search on the Internet under the name of the lawyer and their law firm. Can you find any articles, FAQs or other informational pieces that the lawyer has done that give you a level of comfort?
- There are two types of business lawyers: those that handle lawsuits and those who primarily handle corporate and contract matters (called transactional lawyers).
 Some lawyers do both, but most of them tend to specialize in one area or the other.
 If you are forming a new business, a lawyer who handles business transactions may be best.



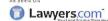
- Look at a "full service" firm that does both transactions and litigation to keep on retainer to anticipate your needs as your business grows. It may also be to your benefit to have access to lawyers with expertise in other areas affecting your business (for example labor or employment law, tax law, real estate law, banking and finance or intellectual property).
- Look to see if a lawyer is affiliated with associations that cater to legal issues affecting businesses. Having a lawyer who is involved in a chamber of commerce or other local organizations may also be a good sign, depending on your legal needs.

BEFORE YOU HIRE A LAWYER:

Ask for references—you want to talk to people who can comment on the lawyer's skills and trustworthiness, such as other lawyers and banks. A business lawyer should also be able to give you the names of several CPAs as references. Find out if he or she has previously worked with venture capitalists or other financing sources.

- A great reference source for a good lawyer is word of mouth from satisfied clients. After getting appropriate consents, lawyers will sometimes develop a list of representative clients that they'll use for marketing and promotional purposes, and you might ask if it would be okay to contact some of them. You shouldn't be surprised, however, if the lawyer declines as attorney/client privilege binds lawyers to strict rules. It may even cause you to question whether the lawyer would keep your legal matters confidential if he or she volunteers too much information about other clients.
- Ask about conflicts of interest. Does the lawyer represent any opposing parties or potential competitors?

AS SEEN ON





GEORGE H. BUXTON

PERSONAL INJURY, BUSINESS LITIGATION, WORKERS' COMPENSATION

George H. Buxton represents clients in personal injury, business litigation, and workers' compensation matters. He also represents clients seeking relief under the United States Department of La-

bor Sick Workers Program. Mr. Buxton has more than 30 years of trial and litigation experience. He is licensed and has been admitted to practice in all state and federal courts in Tennessee as well as the U.S. Supreme Court.

He is one of few lawyers nationally to hold the highest possible rating (5 out of 5) by both clients and peers, judges and lawyers, anonymously for 24 consecutive years in Legal Ability and Ethical Standards as published by Martindale-Hubbell Peer Review Ratings.

A graduate of the University of Memphis School of Law, Mr. Buxton was a member of the National Moot Court team. He was bestowed the honor of inclusion in the National Order of Barristers for outstanding oral advocacy and trial skills by the school of law.

His publications include the "Uniform Partnership Act Revised for the First Time in 80 Years" in the *Tennessee Bar Journal*. Mr. Buxton is a member of the Tennessee Bar Association and the Anderson County Bar Association. He served on the Tennessee Uniform Laws Commission from 1986-2010 and has been honored as a Life Member of the National Conference of Commissioners on Uniform State Laws.

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ALAN G. CRONE

LABOR & EMPLOYMENT, INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY, COMPLIANCE, LITIGATION, COMPLEX COMMERCIAL LITIGATION

Managing Member • Executive Employment Law
Team Member Since 1995

That Alan's personal role model is St. Ignatius of Loyola, founder of the Jesuits, speaks volumes about him. Seeking God both spiritually and rationally, St. Ignatius taught that because God can be found in our everyday work, all work is important.

When it comes to Executive Employment Law, Alan knows that his work is of the utmost importance to his clients. As the team leader, he works within the team to plan strategies and the tactics required to implement them. By working within the legal system that he holds so dear, Alan and his team fashion relief or solutions that help clients reach their goals or seek redress from those who have done them harm.

His very active political experience gives Alan valuable insight into human behavior and strategic thinking – insight that most often proves quite beneficial to our clients.

A fifth-generation Memphian, Alan is a voracious reader, a semi-avid golfer and a devoted husband and father.

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MICHAEL GALLIGAN

PERSONAL INJURY, MEDICAL MALPRACTICE, CIVIL RIGHTS, LABOR & EMPLOYMENT

Mr. Galligan founded his law practice in 1971 following graduation from the University of Ten-

nessee School of Law, and he established the firm of Galligan & Newman in 1982. His successful law practice includes the following areas: personal injury, medical malpractice, civil rights and employment, contested estate cases, complex criminal cases, and workers' compensation. During his more than 40 years as an attorney, Mr. Galligan has represented many high-profile clients, including cases televised on Court TV and reported in national newspapers and magazines. Mr. Galligan has also settled and tried many plaintiffs' cases involving large monetary awards.

Mr. Galligan is a member of the McMinnville, Warren County, Tennessee and American Bar Associations and the Tennessee Association for Justice, serving as a past member of the Board of Governors.

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RUSSELL FLETCHER THOMAS

DUI DEFENSE, CRIMINAL DEFENSE

Russell Thomas is a criminal defense attorney practicing in Nashville and Middle Tennessee. He represents individuals in state and federal court

facing a variety of criminal allegations, including DUI, assault, fraud, white collar and drug offenses, at both the trial and appellate level.

Prior to starting his private law practice, he served as an Assistant District Attorney in Nashville where he prosecuted hundreds of misdemeanor and felony cases. Mr. Thomas is an active member of the National Association of Criminal Defense Attorneys, the Tennessee Association of Criminal Defense Attorneys, and the Harry Phillips American Inn of Courts. Russell formerly chaired the Criminal Law and Criminal Justice Committee of the Nashville Bar Association, and is a member of the Nashville, Tennessee and American Bar Associations. Mr. Thomas is a frequent writer and lecturer on topics involving criminal law. A native Tennessean, Mr. Thomas is a married father of three who enjoys spending time with his family, participating in church and civic activities, and cheering on the UT Volunteers.

LAW OFFICE OF RUSSELL F. THOMAS 414 Union Street, Suite 905 Nashville, TN 37219 ph: 615.620.0891 www.russellthomaslaw.com

DUI TRIAL PROCESS

ost people never intend to drive drunk. Some have a few drinks, not realizing their driving will be impaired. Their mistake in judgement leads to a drunk driving arrest—leaving them shocked and scared.

A drunk driving charge is very serious. You'll definitely need a lawyer if you were arrested for driving under the influence (DUI) or driving while intoxicated (DWI).

An attorney familiar with defending drunk driving cases in your area can guide you through the trial process. It will help to know what's going to happen in court before talking to your lawyer.

ARRAIGNMENT

The first court hearing in your DWI case is likely to be an arraignment. The judge will read the charges against you and ask for your plea. Unless you carefully discuss the entry of a different plea with your attorney, you'll want to plead "not guilty."

The judge will decide whether to reduce your bail amount. The judge may agree to release you on your own recognizance without requiring additional bail.

The prosecutor gives your lawyer—a court-appointed lawyer or a private defense lawyer—copies of evidence about your case. This could include police reports and blood alcohol test results. This is called discovery.

Dates for pretrial motions and your trial will be set by the judge.

PRELIMINARY HEARING

At a preliminary hearing, the judge decides whether the prosecutor has enough evidence to possibly convince a jury that you were driving while intoxicated. While the procedures differ greatly from state to state, this is your attorney's opportunity to size up the prosecution's case and give you more information about your options.

PLEA BARGAINING

Plea bargaining involves negotiating a deal with the prosecutor. It is highly discouraged in DWI cases and is even outlawed in some states. Many legislators feel DWI is such a serious crime that plea bargaining is inappropriate under any circumstance whatsoever.



There may be cases, however, when an attorney can reach a deal with the prosecutor to have a DWI charge reduced to a less serious charge, such as reckless driving. It may also be possible to reach a compromise by agreeing to plead guilty to the DWI charge in exchange for the prosecutor recommending a less severe sentence than if the case went to trial.

THIS ARTICLE IS NOT A SUBSTITUTE FOR LEGAL COUNSEL. SHOULD YOU HAVE ANY LEGAL RESPONSIBILITIES, YOU SHOULD CONTACT A LICENSED ATTORNEY.

AS SEEN ON

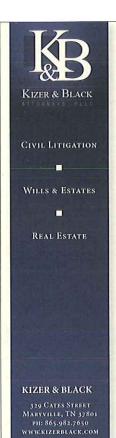


AV PREEMINENT* Martindate-Hubbell* Lawyer Ratings INDEX OF FEATURED FIRMS BY PRACTICE AREA

BANKING & FINANCE	
D. Michael Tranum	7
Long, Ragsdale & Waters, P.C	8
BUSINESS & COMMERCIAL	
Corbett Crockett	8
Lacy, Price & Wagner, P.C.	8
Murfree & Murfree, PLLC	8
BUSINESS IMMIGRATION	
Rose Immigration Law Firm, PLC	8
BUSINESS LITIGATION	
Buxton Law Firm	5

CIVIL LAW
Kizer & Black Attorneys, PLLC
Rogers Kamm & Shea
CIVIL RIGHTS
Law Offices of Galligan & Newman5
COMMERCIAL LITIGATION
Crone & McEvoy PLC5
D. Michael Tranum
Walker Tipps and Malone PLC
CORPORATE LAW
D. Michael Tranum
CRIMINAL DEFENSE
Garza Law Firm, PLLC8
Law Office of Rob McKinney3
Law Office of Russell F. Thomas5
DISABILITY INSURANCE
Eric Buchanan & Associates, PLLC8
DUI DEFENSE
Garza Law Firm, PLLC8
Law Office of Rob McKinney3
Law Office of Russell F. Thomas5
ERISA EMPLOYEE BENEFITS
Eric Buchanan & Associates, PLLC8
ESTATE PLANNING
Corbett Crockett8
Murfree & Murfree, PLLC8
FAMILY LAW
Rogers Kamm & Shea7
IMMIGRATION LAW
Rose Immigration Law Firm, PLC8
INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY LITIGATION
Crone & McEvoy PLC5
Pitts & Lake, P.C8

LABOR & EMPLOYMENT	
Crone & McEvoy PLC	
Law Offices of Galligan & Newman	
LICENSING	J
Pitts & Lake, P.C	0
LITIGATION	0
Crone & McEvoy PLC	
Lacy, Price & Wagner, P.C.	
MEDIATION	0
D. Michael Tranum	7
MEDICAL MALPRACTICE	······································
The Law Office of J.D. Lee	8
Law Offices of Galligan & Newman	
PERSONAL INJURY	
Buxton Law Firm	5
Garza Law Firm, PLLC	
The Law Office of J.D. Lee	8
PLAINTIFF'S PERSONAL INJURY	
Walker Tipps and Malone PLC	7
PRODUCTS LIABILITY	
The Law Office of J.D. Lee	8
REAL ESTATE	
Corbett Crockett	8
Lacy, Price & Wagner, P.C.	8
Kizer & Black Attorneys, PLLC	
Long, Ragsdale & Waters, P.C	8
Murfree & Murfree, PLLC	8
SOCIAL SECURITY DISABILITY	
Eric Buchanan & Associates, PLLC	8
TRUSTS & ESTATES	
Murfree & Murfree, PLLC	8
WILLS & ESTATES	
Kizer & Black Attorneys, PLLC	7
WORKERS' COMPENSATION	
Buxton Law Firm	5



THE ATTORNEYS WITH KIZER & BLACK have been providing legal services to people and businesses throughout East Tennessee since 1968. Based in Maryville, our attorneys are experienced in assisting clients with a wide range of legal needs. We routinely handle matters involving business and commercial law, real estate law, estate planning, probate or elder law, personal injury, workers' compensation law, construction law, divorce and family law, civil litigation, and property and homeowners association. Our broad base of practice and use of technology allows us to provide clients with a consistently high quality of service.

Firm attorneys David T. Black, Martha S. Black, John T. McArthur, Melanie E. Davis and G. Keith Alley have an AV Preeminent* rating by Martindale-Hubbell®.

THE FIRM ALSO ENJOYS AN EFFICIENT and experienced support staff which helps reduce client costs. We provide personal attention to each client, speaking in plain language and giving honest answers to your questions. If you need a lawyer who will work with you to find positive solutions to your legal concerns, do not hesitate to contact us.



D. MICHAEL TRANUM, ESQ.

BANKING, COMMERCIAL LITIGATION, CORPORATE LAW, MEDIATION

Mr. Tranum provides counsel and legal services to a wide variety of financial institutions and other businesses. He serves as external general coun-

sel for a regional financial institution. His work experience with the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation, SunTrust Bank and Chase Manhattan Bank afford a unique perspective in cost effective legal services to banks and clients. He also has practical experience in resolving problem loans, commercial lending and managing issues in the banking industry. Mr. Tranum regularly litigates a variety of civil, commercial and corporate issues in state and federal courts.

Mr. Tranum is AV® Peer-Rated by Martindale-Hubbell®. He is licensed in Tennessee and Kentucky and admitted in state and federal courts there. Mr. Tranum is a Rule 31 Listed Civil and Family Mediator and has conducted and participated in mediations on a wide variety of civil issues.

Mr. Tranum attended law school at the University of Tennessee (J. D., 1976) and is a graduate of the American Bankers Association Stonier Graduate School of Banking at the University of Delaware (1991). He is a graduate of Tennessee Tech University (B. S. History, 1974).

D. MICHAEL TRANUM, ESQ. Counselor and Attorney at Law P.O. Box 3800, Johnson City, TN 37602 ph: 423.239.5400 | cell: 423.330.5400 | fax: 423.239.6553 | tranumlaw@embarqmail.com

Helen Sfikas Rogers Attorney at Law

Certified Civil Trial Specialist



For over 30 years, Helen S. Rogers has worked hard to help Tennessee families struggling with issues of divorce, relocation, prenuptial and postnuptial agreements, parental rights, grandparent rights, custody, alimony, probate law, appeals, and alternative dispute resolution. In the process, she has built her reputation as a tough and thorough litigator and advocate, while creating a

strong law practice. The firm of Rogers, Kamm & Shea is a long-term AV® rated firm with skilled and knowledgeable litigators. This is the highest possible rating in both legal ability and ethical standards. With an experienced staff of five attorneys and six support staff, Rogers, Kamm & Shea offers its clients prompt and cost-effective customer service. The main office is conveniently located in The Wind in the Willows Mansion in Midtown Nashville near Centennial Park with a second smaller location at 317 Main Street in downtown Franklin. Rogers, Kamm & Shea is a hardworking group of legal professionals helping individuals at the worst times of their lives with skill, kindness and understanding.







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Located in Nashville, WALKER, TIPPS & MALONE PLC is one of the premier boutique litigation firms in the South. The Firm is nationally known for its broad range of experience and expertise in civil litigation and dispute resolution. From multimillion-dollar corporate disputes to wrongful death and personal injury lawsuits, WALKER, TIPPS & MALONE PLC provides effective, efficient, and zealous representation to individual and corporate clients in Tennessee and throughout the United States.

The Firm's attorneys have experience in a wide variety of litigation, and regularly practice before federal and state courts at all appellate levels and in jurisdictions across the country. Its attorneys represent clients in administrative matters before federal and state agencies, boards, commissions, and departments, and have extensive experience in all forms of alternative dispute resolution, including arbitration and mediation.

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Fric Buchanan & Associates PLLC represents disabled people and other policyholders across the United States in both ERISA and non-ERISA disputes, focusing pri-marily in the areas of disability, life, and health insurance. Eric Buchanan is also certified as a Social Security specialist by the Tennessee Commission on CLE and Specialization. His firm has represented hundreds of people in federal court lawsuits involving ERISA disability, ERISA employee benefits, and Social Security disputes.

Eric has been peer-review rated AV Preeminent[®] by Martindale-Hubbell since 2007. Eric has spoken at many national conferences, teaching other attorneys about ERISA, disability insurance, and social security disability, including AAJ conventions, NOSSCR confer-ences, ACI conferences, and others. Many papers presented by Eric at these seminars can be found on the firm's website.

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lcorbett@ corbettcrockett.com corbettcrockett.com Lee was awarded the Bachelor of Arts degree in Economics from the College of Wooster, Wooster, Ohio, in 1966 and his Doctor of Jurisprudence (J.D.) degree in 1969 from Vanderbilt University School of Law. He immediately entered the private practice of law in Nashville, and in 1973 became a partner in the firm of Ingraham, Nichol, Young and Corbett, the predecessor of Ingraham, Corbett & Zinn. Lee practiced with Ingraham, Corbett & Zinn until the summer of 1988, when he became a founding member of his present firm.

Lee is licensed and has been admitted to practice in all of the state and federal courts in Tennessee, as well as the United States Supreme Court. He is a member of the Nashville, Tennessee and American Bar Associations. He is a member of the Business Law, Taxation, and Real Property, Probate and Trust Law Sections of the American Bar Association, as well as the corresponding Sections of the Tennessee

Association, as well as the corresponding Sections of the Tennessee Bar Association.

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MARCOS M. GARZA

Marcos M. Garza is best known for his defense of those accused of DUI, criminal charges and for his representation of individuals who have suffered serious personal injury. However, Mr. Garza devotes part of his practice to handling personal injury cases. Mr. Garza's experience and training as a trial lawyer began in the United States Marine Corps where he served four years as a Judge Advocate and concluded his active duty service in 2005 as a Captain. Mr. Garza has now been an attorney for over 12 years.

In 2010 through 2014, Marcos Garza was one of only four lawyers in the states of Arkansas, Tennessee and Mississippi, under the age of 40 to be selected as a "Mid-South Super Lawyer Rising-Star," in the area of DUI/DWI Defense, a distinction given to the top 2.5% of all lawyers under the age of 40 or in the first 10 years of practice.

RAYMOND E. "RAY" LACY



BUSINESS, LITIGATION, REAL ESTATE

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LACY, PRICE & WAGNER, P.C. is a solution-oriented firm with seasoned attorneys. Having significant experience in banking and corporate law, it is prepared to negotiate and litigate real estate. Ioan and transactional matters. It has a particular emphasis in defending matters involving institutional lenders. Mr. Lacy, a former adjunct professor of law at the University of Tennessee (contract drafting), has an in-depth understanding of contract law. He has been AV® rated for over 30 years. He received a Doctor of Jurisprudence degree in 1975 as a scholarship graduate of the University of Memphis, has a Bachelor of Science degree from The University of Tennessee, is a member of the KBA and TBA, and has spoken at numerous seminars.

J.D. LEE



PERSONAL INJURY MEDICAL MALPRACTICE, PRODUCTS LIABRLITY

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The Tennessee Association for Justice recently named J. D. Lee recipient of the TAJ Lifetime Achievement Award. J. D. continually fights for those who otherwise would not have a voice and helps them seek justice when it may seem close to impossible. His commitment to the people of this state and Tennessee's civil justice system is unsurpassed."

Licensed in Tennessee, he specializes in personal injury, wrongful death, on-the-job injuries, defective products, and medical malpractice cases. One of the founders of the Tennessee Association for Justice, J. D. Lee believes the application of his expertise in the courtroom upholds the rights of those individuals who have been victimized by the negligence of others and no fault of their own.

Lee is also a member of the exclusive Inner Circle of Advocates comprised of America's top 100 plaintiff attorneys.

BRICKE MURFREE



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Received his JD from Vanderbilt and B.A. from Rhodes College, Cum Laude. His practice focuses on estate planning, corporate and real estate law with an emphasis on real estate development and zoning, including the representation of a client in its building of a \$280 million hospital. Bricke is a member of the Board of Trustees of The Webb School where he serves on its Audit and Finance Committee and its Building and Grounds Committee. He is the Vice President of the Board of the Oaklands Museum and the Board of Directors of the Rutherford County Chamber of Commerce. Bricke received the 2007 YMCA Volunteer of the Year award and he's a frequent lecturer on real estate and estate topics.

ROBERT E. PITTS



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Bob Pitts counsels companies and individuals regarding patent procurement and patent prosecution. He has served, along with partners, as outside patent counsel for hightech startups that have sold for more than \$1 billion. Mr. Pitts represents clients in federal court in patent and trademark disputes, and he has been patent infringement trial counsel in two eight-figure and several seven-figure recoveries. He also defends clients accused of infringement. Mr. Pitts earned an electrical engineering Master of Science degree from the University of Tennessee at Knoxville before attending law school. He has been a licensed patent attorney and engaged in the private practice of patent and trademark law for over 30 years.

LINDA ROSE



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Linda Rose manages Rose Immigration Law Firm, PLC, in Nashville. Her firm emphasizes business immigration in the music and entertainment industries, international corporate transfers, and university research and teaching.

She is a leading member of the American Immigration Lawyers Association (AILA) and sat on the AILA Board of Governors for 14 years. She serves on the AILA Department of Labor Liaison Committee, which negotiates procedure and policy with DOL for employers hiring foreign workers, and on the AILA FACES Committee, which monitors policy for cases in fashion, athletics, culture, entertainment, and sciences.

She also is an adjunct professor at Vanderbilt University Law School. When not practicing law, she plays jazz vibraphone and African xylophone with her band, Rose on Vibes Quintet.

LRW

Long, Ragsdale & Waters, P.C.

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Long, Ragsdale & Waters was formed in 1986 by David W. Long, Dennis B. Ragsdale and John B. Waters, Ill as a "boutique" firm focusing on real estate development and bank and equity financing. The firm has grown its practice to include all types of real estate development, including shopping centers, resorts, office buildings, medicaluse buildings as well as mergers and acquisitions of businesses and analysis of the tax impacts of those activities. It has also grown its practice to include litigation services in these and other business-related areas including construction disputes, employment Itigation services in these and other business-related areas including construction disputes, employment matters, collections and landlord rights. The firm's client list includes regional and community-based banks, mortgage lenders, title insurers, developers, and entrepreneurs. Our lawyers pride themselves on providing quality services with a common sense, personalized approach, resulting with the firm enjoying many "repeat" clients.

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