

**Elizabeth H. Huntley**

Senior Counsel and Director of Community Relations and Engagement

Birmingham

Phone: 205-581-5810

Fax: 205-581-0799

[ehuntley@lightfootlaw.com](mailto:ehuntley@lightfootlaw.com)

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## Elizabeth Huntley is an experienced civil litigator dedicated to child advocacy work.

Liz is not only a formidable litigator, but she is also a committed child advocate. In addition to her practice focusing on complex civil litigation matters, Liz also provides legal and consulting services to government and nonprofit agencies that serve children and families.

After law school, Liz clerked for not one but two judges — Judge U.W. Clemon of the U.S. District Court for the Northern District of Alabama and Judge John Bush of the 19th Judicial Circuit, State of Alabama. She brings the experience she gained from working inside the judicial system to work on behalf of her clients in handling their most challenging civil litigation matters. Her cases routinely include issues involving product liability, personal injury, financial services and governmental entities. Liz represents clients across a wide range of industries including food manufacturing, banking, machinery manufacturing and wood-product manufacturing.

Committed to the legal profession, Liz is a member of the Defense Research Institute (DRI). She is also active in the Alabama State Bar Association and the Birmingham Bar Association.

As someone whose childhood was tainted by poverty and other challenges, Liz has become a well-known child advocate in Alabama. She serves on several boards, including the Children’s Village Board of Directors, the Alabama School Readiness Alliance, Auburn University Board of Trustees and University of Alabama School of Law Board of Governors. She is also the president and co-founder of **The Hope Institute**. More information about Liz’s child advocacy work can be found [on her personal website](#).

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## PRACTICE AREAS

Banking & Financial Services  
Commercial Litigation  
Consumer Fraud & Bad Faith  
Complex Government Litigation & Investigations  
Product Liability

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## EDUCATION

University of Alabama (J.D., 1997)  
Auburn University (B.S. in Political Science, 1993)

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## BAR ADMISSIONS

Alabama (1997)



Liz also serves as a motivational speaker to various groups and organizations where she challenges audiences to adopt her “no excuses” philosophy. Her talks frequently draw from her memoir, ***More Than a Bird***, which recounts her childhood journey from unimaginable darkness to radiance. She and her husband Tony are the proud parents of three children.

## JUDICIAL CLERKSHIPS

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Judge U.W. Clemon, U.S. District Court for the Northern District of Alabama

Judge John Bush, 19th Judicial Circuit, State of Alabama

## PROFESSIONAL ORGANIZATIONS

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Alabama Law Foundation, Fellow

Alabama School Readiness Alliance

Alabama State Bar Association

Auburn University, Trustee

Birmingham Bar Association, Fellow

Magic City Bar Association

Children’s Village, Director

Defense Research Institute (DRI)

Hope Institute, President and Co-founder

University of Alabama School of Law, Board of Governors

## AWARDS

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*Birmingham Business Journal*, "Who's Who in Nonprofits" (2021)

Defense Research Institute (DRI), Lifetime Community Service Award (2016)

*Mid-South Super Lawyers* by Thomson Reuters — Litigation Defense (2017-19)

Momentum, "Woman of Impact" (2020)

National Black Lawyers, “Top 100”

*Yellowhammer News*, “Top 20 Women Who Shape the State of Alabama” (2018)

## PRESENTATIONS AND PUBLICATIONS

Guest, “Impact of High-Quality Pre-K Programs,” *The Preschool Podcast* (Jan. 9, 2017)

Presenter, “ED Talk with Liz Huntley: Return on Investment of early childhood education,” Education Commission of the States' 2016 National Forum on Education Policy (2016)

Presenter, "Be a Game Changer" TEDxBirmingham (2015)

Author, *More Than A Bird* (2015)

Author, "Pregnancy or Partner—Why Not Both?" *DRI For the Defense*  
(2014)



**Jackson R. Sharman III**  
Partner

Birmingham  
Phone: 205-581-0789  
Fax: 205-581-0799

[jsharman@lightfootlaw.com](mailto:jsharman@lightfootlaw.com)

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## When crisis comes, Jack Sharman's your experienced ally.

Jack guides corporations and individuals through business crises, civil and criminal white-collar prosecutions, and corporate internal investigations. In an environment of increased uncertainty, regulatory scrutiny and a skeptical public, clients rely on him to respond to and navigate the most difficult circumstances they will likely ever face.

Jack leads the firm's White-Collar Criminal Defense & Corporate Investigations practice group. He handles and takes to trial matters involving kickback allegations, environmental offenses, public corruption, the Foreign Corrupt Practices Act (FCPA), congressional investigations, healthcare fraud and the False Claims Act (FCA). He also has an active civil litigation and civil mediation practice and is on the firm's Recruiting Committee.

Companies and their decision-makers benefit from the decades of high-profile experience that Jack brings to the table. He served as Special Counsel to the U.S. House Financial Services Committee for the Whitewater investigation involving President Bill Clinton. From 2016-17, Jack was Special Counsel to the Judiciary Committee of the Alabama House of Representatives for the impeachment investigation of Gov. Robert Bentley.

Following law school, Jack clerked for Judge David B. Sentelle, U.S. Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia Circuit, and worked at a Washington, DC-based international law firm. He also taught law as an adjunct professor at Washington & Lee University and the University of Alabama.

Jack often updates his [White Collar Wire](#) blog and [podcast](#).

### EXPERIENCE

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- Leading the impeachment investigation of Gov. Robert Bentley.
- Conducting a sexual harassment investigation in the #MeToo era.

### PRACTICE AREAS

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Arbitration & Mediation Services  
Directors' & Officers' Liability  
International Disputes  
Complex Government Litigation & Investigations  
Securities & Shareholder Disputes  
White-Collar Criminal Defense & Corporate Investigations

### EDUCATION

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Harvard Law School (J.D., 1989)  
Editor-in-Chief, *Harvard Journal of Law & Public Policy*  
Washington University (M.F.A., 1986)  
Institute for European Studies, Geneva, Switzerland (Certificate in European Studies, 1985)  
Washington & Lee University (B.A., 1983)

### BAR ADMISSIONS

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Alabama (1996)  
District of Columbia (1991)  
Georgia (1989)  
Mississippi (2002)  
New York (2019)  
Texas (2021)

- Conducting an internal investigation of a publicly traded company's government contracts division in Virginia (with regard to kickbacks) and the company's law department (with regard to sexual misconduct claims).
- Conducting an internal investigation into a Division I men's basketball program, alongside colleagues in the firm's NCAA practice.
- Representing the former president of a commercial cleaning company in a two-week trial in a federal public corruption case.
- Completing multiple internal investigations at the request of a major utility company on a variety of matters including alleged unlawful campaign contributions, violations of state ethics laws and kickbacks.
- Conducting an internal investigation of a financial officer at another utility company whose conduct raised significant Sarbanes-Oxley issues.
- Defending an anesthesiologist in a seven-week federal criminal "pill mill" trial.
- Advising the owner of a compounding pharmacy with respect to a federal investigation.
- Guiding the former chief credit officer of a national bank through parallel grand jury, civil class action and federal regulatory proceedings. The client not indicted; a civil settlement was reached.
- Counseling the regional manager of a large food broker with respect to a federal fraud investigation.
- Representing (with local counsel) the CFO of a specialty pharmacy in a federal prosecution under the Anti-Kickback Statute. The case was tried and the client acquitted.
- Representing (with co-counsel) a lobbyist in a large public corruption investigation brought by DOJ's Public Integrity Section that alleged vote-buying in a state legislature. The case was tried and the client acquitted.
- Assisting a federal healthcare researcher in a criminal and civil investigation into the loss of computerized health information. The client not indicted or sued.
- Representing a lawyer in a three-week public corruption trial.
- Counseling a county commission and commissioners subpoenaed as part of a nationwide SEC investigation into interest-rate "swaps" on government bonds.
- Representing a senior officer and director of an outpatient healthcare company in parallel civil, criminal, congressional and administrative proceedings. The client was the only senior executive not charged.
- Representing the president of a gasoline company in a Clean Air Act grand jury investigation. The client was not indicted.
- Assisting a pharmaceutical company in a military criminal investigation. The client and employee were not charged.
- Representing an officer of a poultry company in a Clean Water Act case. The Client and employee were not charged.
- Conducting an internal investigation for a major insurance company

whose Birmingham office director was accused of accepting kickbacks.

## JUDICIAL CLERKSHIPS

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Judge David B. Sentelle, U.S. Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia Circuit (1989-90)

## PROFESSIONAL ORGANIZATIONS

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Alabama State Board of Bar Examiners, former examiner

American Bar Association, White Collar Crime Committee of the Section on Criminal Justice

Birmingham American Inn of Court, Barrister

Birmingham Bar Association, Grievance Committee, former chairman

Cathedral Church of the Advent, former Vestry member

Edward Bennett Williams American Inn of Court, former member (only Inn devoted solely to white collar crime)

Mountain Brook Lacrosse Association, Former President

National Association of Criminal Defense Lawyers

Washington & Lee University Alumni Association, Former National President

## AWARDS

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*Benchmark Litigation*, "Local Litigation Star" — White Collar Crime (2018-21)

*The Best Lawyers in America*© by BL Rankings — Corporate Compliance Law, Corporate Governance Law, White-Collar Criminal Defense, Electronic Discovery and Information Management Law (2020-21)

*The Best Lawyers in America*© by BL Rankings, "Lawyer of the Year" for Birmingham — Corporate Compliance Law (2019), Corporate Governance Law (2020)

*B-Metro* magazine, "Top Flight Attorneys" (2019)

*Mid-South Super Lawyers* by Thomson Reuters, "Top 50 Super Lawyers in Birmingham" (2020)

*Mid-South Super Lawyers* by Thomson Reuters — White Collar Criminal Defense (2017-20)

## PRESENTATIONS AND PUBLICATIONS

Presenter, "Impeachment Lessons for Internal Investigations," Bench & Bar CLE Seminar (2019)

Presenter, "NCAA's Adopted Attestation and Certification of Compliance Obligations," LEAD1 Association (2019)

Presenter, "Impeachment Lessons for Internal Investigations," Southeastern Business Law Institute (2017)

Presenter, "How Lightfoot lawyers earned their stripes in high-profile

government investigations” (2017)

Presenter, “Corporate Internal Investigations,” Alabama Chapter, Association of Corporate Counsel (2016)

Presenter, “Investigations,” Legal Counsel Conference, Birmingham, Alabama (2016)

Presenter, “Civil Lessons from Criminal Trials,” The Trial Network, Chicago (2012)



**Brandon K. Essig**  
Partner

Birmingham  
Phone: 205-581-0738  
Fax: 205-581-0799

[bessig@lightfootlaw.com](mailto:bessig@lightfootlaw.com)

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## Brandon Essig is a veteran of high-profile jury trials.

A seasoned courtroom lawyer, Brandon has tried dozens of high-profile jury cases in his career. His courtroom experience includes both civil and criminal jury trials in state and federal courts, and multiple appellate arguments.

Representing individuals, corporations, businesses, colleges and universities, Brandon guides his clients through complex litigation in federal and state court, federal and state grand jury investigations, state ethics matters, regulatory investigations, and Title IX and NCAA infractions matters.

Despite Brandon's experience and success as a litigator, he believes the best service he can provide to his clients is advice and counsel that helps them avoid legal pitfalls. Brandon learned the value of robust and effective compliance while in-house at a Fortune 500 defense contractor where he worked with a team that developed a multifaceted program that addressed various enterprise risks such as FCPA (foreign bribery), ITAR (arms trafficking regulations) and the False Claims Act. As a result, he seeks to assist individual and corporate clients with complex compliance issues through the conduct of effective investigations, as well as the development and implementation of proactive compliance programs.

Before joining Lightfoot, Brandon spent more than a decade in public service. He worked for nearly eight years at the Department of Justice. As an assistant U.S. attorney, he investigated and prosecuted a variety of crimes including public corruption, fraud, money laundering, violent crime, organized drug trafficking, environmental crimes and child exploitation.

Brandon was a captain in the U.S. Marine Corps prior to his work for the DOJ. His service included time as a prosecutor and 10 months assigned to a Marine Corps infantry unit, including a seven-month deployment to Fallujah, Iraq. A former college athlete, Brandon played football at the University of West Alabama where he was twice selected

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## PRACTICE AREAS

Commercial Litigation  
Healthcare  
International Disputes  
Media & Communications Law  
Complex Government Litigation & Investigations  
NCAA Compliance & Investigations  
Product Liability  
Professional Liability  
White-Collar Criminal Defense & Corporate Investigations

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## EDUCATION

University of Alabama School of Law (J.D., 2002)  
George Peach Taylor  
Excellence in Trial Advocacy  
Award (2001-02)  
University of West Alabama  
(B.A., *cum laude*, 1998)

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## BAR ADMISSIONS

Alabama (2002)



as an Academic All-Conference tight end.

Brandon's public service took him all over the world, and he thrived in challenging and complex legal environments. Brandon's service in Fallujah, Iraq, as a Marine included dozens of foot patrols; interactions with local tribal, political and military leaders; and the conduct of investigations in one of the most challenging environments on the planet.

While serving as federal prosecutor, Brandon led his office's investigation of an international rhino poaching crime syndicate, which resulted in guilty pleas of two professional hunters from South Africa and the indictments of two South African nationals. That investigation was conducted in concert with DOJ's Environmental Crimes Section.

As part of that investigation, Brandon traveled to South Africa and worked closely with DOJ's Office of International Affairs and the U.S. State Department to bring about the indictments in that case.

A member of the firm's Recruiting Committee, Brandon participates in the committee's efforts to bring only the best talent to Lightfoot. His time outside of compensated work is devoted to helping his wife Ashleigh, a full-time kindergarten teacher, control the unbound energy of their two sons and daughter. When time permits, he also likes to read, workout and spend time in the woods. Brandon and his family are members of the Cathedral Church of the Advent.

## EXPERIENCE

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- Recovering for a Failed Municipal Water Meter and Billing System
- Leading the impeachment investigation of Gov. Robert Bentley.
- Representing a partner at a major law firm in a four-week federal public corruption trial.
- Representing an SEC head football coach at an NCAA Committee on Infractions hearing.
- Representing a physician in a seven-week federal criminal RICO trial.
- Representing a corporate executive in a multidistrict investigation by the Department of Justice.
- Conducting a multiweek investigation of alleged Title IX violations at a major NCAA institution.
- Conducting a months-long investigation related to alleged NCAA infractions and criminal violations at a major NCAA institution.

## AWARDS

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*The Best Lawyers in America*© by BL Rankings — White-Collar Criminal Defense (2020-21)

*Birmingham Business Journal*, "Veteran of Influence" (2017)

*Birmingham Magazine*, "Top Attorney," — White-Collar Defense (2020)

*Mid-South Super Lawyers* by Thomson Reuters — White Collar Criminal Defense (2020)

## PRESENTATIONS AND PUBLICATIONS

Author, "Yates Memo Thoughts for Compliance Professionals: The Scope of Risk May be Broader Than You Think," LinkedIn (2017)

Guest, "FCPA Compliance Report," podcast (2017)



**Robert J. Sewell**  
Associate

Birmingham  
Phone: 205-581-0731  
Fax: 205-581-0799

[jsewell@lightfootlaw.com](mailto:jsewell@lightfootlaw.com)

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## Jay Sewell is an experienced and reliable investigator turned dedicated and adaptable litigator.

Legal cases frequently present a variety of issues that evolve and require different solutions. Jay understands how to adapt in these fluid situations, and he applies his past experience to achieve the best outcome for his clients. Whether he's advocating for a white-collar defendant in a criminal trial, or representing clients in business disputes or personal injury lawsuits, Jay relentlessly advocates for his clients, no matter the circumstance.

Prior to law school, Jay worked as a police officer and detective, graduating at the top of his class at the Northeast Alabama Law Enforcement Academy. During his time in law enforcement, he investigated a wide variety of cases including catastrophic car crashes, all manners of theft and fraud, and violent crimes. Jay applies his unique background and investigative skills to each legal case, and clients appreciate his dedication to leaving no stone left unturned. He has also been asked to give presentations on Alabama criminal procedures to first-year law students.

Jay graduated first in his class from Samford University's Cumberland School of Law, where he served as a junior editor and then eventually executive editor of the *Cumberland Law Review*. He served as an associate justice and then the chief justice on the Henry Upson Sims Moot Court Executive Board. As a member of Cumberland's National Moot Court team, he competed in the ABA's prestigious National Appellate Advocacy Competition. Following his second year of law school, Jay was admitted to practice as a student, trying cases in district and circuit courts.

When he's not representing clients, Jay enjoys spending time with his wife Jessica, his son Wesley and their dog Bentley. Jay is an avid fan of the Auburn Tigers, and he is a lifelong follower of his hometown Atlanta Braves.

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## PRACTICE AREAS

Commercial Litigation  
Commercial Transportation  
Corporate Plaintiff's Litigation  
Fire & Explosion  
Product Liability  
Professional Liability  
White-Collar Criminal Defense  
& Corporate Investigations

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## EDUCATION

Samford University,  
Cumberland School of Law  
(J.D., *summa cum laude*, 2015)  
Auburn University (B.A.,  
*summa cum laude*, 2006)

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## BAR ADMISSIONS

Alabama (2015)  
Georgia (2018)  
Texas (2016)

## EXPERIENCE

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- Representing a heavy equipment manufacturer in negotiating a settlement of a dispute with a dealer and third parties involving claims under the Alabama Heavy Equipment Dealer Act.
- Serving as trial and appellate counsel for a doctor in a criminal case in the U.S. District Court for the Southern District of Alabama including oral argument before the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Eleventh Circuit that involved allegations of illegal prescribing practices, billing fraud and violations of the Anti-Kickback Statute.
- Representing mall management in several lease disputes with tenants resulting in favorable judgments for client.
- Representing elected official in lawsuit relating to Alabama voting procedures during pandemic conditions.

## PROFESSIONAL ORGANIZATIONS

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Alabama Defense Lawyers Association (ADLA)

American Bar Association

Birmingham Bar Association

Defense Research Institute (DRI)

Federalist Society

Judge James Edwin Horton Inn of Court

## AWARDS

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*The Best Lawyers in America*® by BL Rankings — Corporate Compliance Law (2020-21), Corporate Governance Law (2021)

*Mid-South Super Lawyers* by Thomson Reuters, "Rising Star" — White Collar Criminal Defense (2019), Litigation Defense (2020)

## PRESENTATIONS AND PUBLICATIONS

Note Author, "Criminal Procedure—Self-Incrimination—Persons Subjected to Noncustodial Interrogation Must Say They Want to Remain Silent to Invoke Fifth Amendment Protection," *Salinas v. Texas*, 133 S. Ct. 2174 (2013), 44 *Cumberland Law Review* 543 (2013-14)

Author, "Youthful Offender Convictions, Sentencing, & Identification Procedures," discussing *United States v. Elliot*, 732 F.3d 1307 (11th Cir. 2013), 44 *Cumberland Law Review* 588 (2013-14)

Comment Author, "Should I Stay or Should I Go? A Guide to Change of Venue in Alabama Criminal Courts," 45 *Cumberland Law Review* 141 (2014-15)

## COURT ADMISSIONS

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U.S. Court of Appeals for the 11th Circuit

U.S. District Court for the Middle District of Alabama

U.S. District Court for the Northern District of Alabama

U.S. District Court for the Southern District of Alabama

U.S. District Court for the Western District of Texas



**Amaobi J. Enyinnia**  
Associate

Birmingham  
Phone: 205-581-0714  
Fax: 205-581-0799

[aenyinnia@lightfootlaw.com](mailto:aenyinnia@lightfootlaw.com)

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## Amaobi Enyinnia brings a versatile, perceptive and comprehensive approach to problem-solving and litigation.

Amaobi's practice focuses on commercial litigation, transportation, personal injury and product liability cases. He applies his experience working in business, government, e-discovery and clinical settings to advance a client's goals and develop efficient solutions that "move the ball forward."

As the second child of two Nigerian immigrants living and working in Murfreesboro, Tennessee, Amaobi has always appreciated the perspectives of people from every walk of life. Since every case is different, he knows that finding the best answer to a problem requires knowing even the smallest details, understanding the needs and characteristics of all parties and a willingness to work tirelessly toward the best solution. As Theodore Roosevelt once said, "We cannot do great deeds unless we are willing to do the small things that make up the sum of greatness."

Amaobi graduated from Vanderbilt University with a degree in political science before attending the University of Tennessee College of Law, where he repeatedly made the Dean's List, graduated *magna cum laude* and was invited to join the Order of the Coif. In his third year of law school, he was admitted to practice in the school's Non-Profits Legal Clinic, where he served numerous clients and was recognized as a Distinguished Student Attorney. He was also an articles editor and served on the Editorial Board of the *Tennessee Law Review*. Today, Amaobi serves on the firm's Diversity Committee.

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## PRACTICE AREAS

Automotive  
Commercial Litigation  
Commercial Transportation  
Catastrophic Injury  
Employment Law  
Healthcare  
Complex Government Litigation  
& Investigations  
Product Liability

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## EDUCATION

University of Tennessee  
College of Law (J.D., *magna cum laude*, 2015)  
Vanderbilt University (B.A., 2012)

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## BAR ADMISSIONS

Alabama (2017)  
Georgia (2016)

Outside the office, Amaobi enjoys enthusiastically cheering on the Memphis Grizzlies, Vanderbilt Commodores, Tennessee Titans, Atlanta Braves, Nashville Predators and Nigeria's Super Eagles. He's also an avid student of U.S. history; enjoys traveling (to Nigeria and beyond); reading; and keeping up with current events, foreign affairs and the latest advancements in the tech world.

## EXPERIENCE

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- Securing a favorable resolution of multimillion-dollar defective software, fraud and breach of contract claims.
- Attaining a favorable result in multimillion-dollar breach of commercial services contract and fraud claims.
- Obtaining summary judgment against plaintiffs' shareholder derivative claims.

## PROFESSIONAL ORGANIZATIONS

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Alabama Defense Lawyers Association (ADLA)

Alabama State Bar

Birmingham Bar Association

Defense Research Institute (DRI)

The Eleventh Circuit Historical Society

State Bar of Georgia

Order of the Coif

## AWARDS

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The National Black Lawyers, "Alabama's Top 40 Under 40 Lawyers"



**Richard A. Rosario**  
Associate

Birmingham  
Phone: 205-581-0778  
Fax: 205-581-0799

[rrosario@lightfootlaw.com](mailto:rrosario@lightfootlaw.com)

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## Richard Rosario leverages past legal experience as he represents his clients.

Richard gained unique, hands-on experience at several internships during law school. He uses those skills in his legal practice every day. He spent time, for example, with the Federal Public Defender in Nashville, Tennessee, working on a case challenging the state's lethal injection protocol, and he drafted motions, briefs and memoranda for other matters. Richard also interned with Nashville's Metropolitan Legal Department and the Nashville Public Defenders where he successfully argued multiple motions and represented his clients in hearings. He gained valuable knowledge in all of these internships that he now leverages for his clients. He has handled matters regarding product liability, medical malpractice and white-collar criminal defense.

While at the Vanderbilt University School of Law, Richard won the Mock Trial Competition in his first year, and he served as president of the Mock Trial Board in his third year. In his spare time, Richard enjoys going to the gym, being outdoors and cooking. He also hiked the Inca Trail to Machu Picchu.

## AWARDS

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Vanderbilt University Law School 1L Mock Trial Tournament, champion (2018)

## PRACTICE AREAS

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Product Liability  
Medical Malpractice  
White-Collar Criminal Defense  
& Corporate Investigations

## EDUCATION

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Vanderbilt University Law School (J.D., 2020)  
Florida State University (B.S., *summa cum laude*, 2017)

## BAR ADMISSIONS

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Alabama (2020)