



Monté L. Williams | Member

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LICENSURE PA | WV | TX
EDUCATION J.D. West Virginia University

Monté Williams often tells clients, "I'm here to help eliminate your worry." Monté puts all his skills to work to protect his clients, whether he's defending them at trial, managing litigation, negotiating settlements, conducting investigations, or partnering with them to find ways to avoid future problems. His experience as a former West Virginia State Trooper means he can investigate and evaluate situations quickly and strategically. Additionally, his law enforcement training allows him to remain calm and focused in high-stress situations.

As the head of the firm's Oil & Gas Emergency Response Team and a member of the Workplace Safety Team focusing on OSHA issues, Monté uses this level-headed approach to help clients manage rapidly evolving situations as the right people, administrative, legal, and regulatory resources are coordinated. Monté collaborates with his clients to protect them and fight for the best possible outcome long before litigation is a reality. His efforts have proven successful in cases of energy disputes; police liability; state, county, or municipal liability; contract disputes; medical malpractice; first and third party bad faith; personal injury; products liability; and premises liability.

Monté is the General Litigation Practice Group Leader, head of the firm's Oil & Gas Emergency Response Team, a member of the firm's Coal Emergency Response Team, the Chair of the Diversity Committee, and is the Office Managing Member of the firm's The Woodlands, Texas office. Monté is a member of the Environment, Social, Governance ("ESG") group, a group of attorneys with experience and knowledge about how ESG impacts all aspects of business.

REPRESENTATIVE EXPERIENCE

Assisted national wine distributor in avoiding lawsuit through settlement in allegations of unfair pricing

Defended international retailer against claims of premises liability resulting in injury

Emergency Response Team - Assisted oil and gas client with investigation and management of incident involving fatalities including on site interaction with regulatory agencies

Drafted successful appeal to state supreme court of circuit court decision that deferred ruling on qualified immunity until completion of discovery, resulting in vicarious liability and negligent hiring and training claims against law enforcement client being dismissed before commencement of discovery

Successfully argued a civil rights case before the Fourth Circuit Court of Appeals

Litigated claims of negligent installation during construction for home improvement retailer
Arbitration counsel for national retailer for matters related to negligent installation during construction
Negotiated settlement for national wine distributor in lawsuit involving unfair pricing
Jury trial for claims of complete destruction of commercial property resulting from fire
Defended international restaurant chain in lawsuit alleging permanent personal injury due to booth collapse
Defended insurers in claims for underinsured motorist benefits
Defended insurers against claims of unfair trade practices and common law bad faith
Assisted insurer in defense of \$400,000 property damage subrogation claim

WORK EXPERIENCE

2003 Steptoe & Johnson PLLC
1994-2003 West Virginia State Police

MEMBERSHIPS AND AWARDS

PROFESSIONAL

The Best Lawyers in America®, Commercial Litigation (2018-Present), Construction Law (2021-Present), Litigation - Insurance (2018-Present), Medical Malpractice Law - Defendants (2021-Present), Personal Injury Litigation - Defendants (2013-Present), Privacy and Data Security Law (2020-Present), Product Liability Litigation - Defendants (2021-Present)
Best Lawyers® 2021 Morgantown, WV Product Liability Litigation - Defendants, Lawyer of the Year
Best Lawyers® 2020 Morgantown, WV Personal Injury - Defendants, Lawyer of the Year
Best Lawyers® 2018 Morgantown, WV Litigation - Insurance, Law Lawyer of the Year
Best Lawyers® 2016 Morgantown, WV, Personal Injury Litigation-Defendants, Lawyer of the Year
Top Rated Lawyer (General Litigation) Super Lawyers®
Selected to the Department of the Justice's Honors Program
Winner of the Baker Cup Competition
CALI Award for Appellate Advocacy
Order of the Barristers
Treasurer, Association of Defense Trial Attorneys
Fellow, West Virginia Bar Foundation
Vice Chair, DRI, Young Lawyers State & Local Defense Organizations Subcommittee
Past Chair, DRI, Young Lawyers Activities Subcommittee
Past Member, Board of Governors, West Virginia State Bar
Charter Member/Chairperson, West Virginia Black Lawyers Alumni Association
Past Member, Visiting Committee, West Virginia University College of Law
Board of Governors, Defense Trial Counsel of West Virginia
Past Chair, Defense Research Institute, Young Lawyers Public Service Subcommittee (2008)

Past Chair, Defense Research Institute, Young Lawyers Diversity Subcommittee (2010)
Young Lawyers Liaison, Trial Tactics Committee, Defense Research Institute
Monongalia/Marion Counties District Representative, Young Lawyers Section, West Virginia State Bar
2006-2009
Former Citizen Member, West Virginia Ethics Commission

INDUSTRY/CIVIC

Automobile Association of America East Central
Board of Directors, Habitat for Humanity
Board of Directors, Leadership West Virginia
FBI Citizen's Academy
Leadership Monongalia
Leadership West Virginia 2010
Board of Directors, West Virginia University Alumni Association