

Merritt G. Abney

Partner

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Merritt practices in the area of complex commercial litigation, including business disputes, shareholder and partnership disputes, and disputes involving financial institutions, real property, and real estate development. He has broad experience with jury and non-jury trials, arbitration, and has argued numerous cases in state and federal appellate courts.

Experience

The following is a selected sampling of matters and is provided for informational purposes only. Past success does not indicate the likelihood of success in any future matter.

- Defended a major oil company in a multi-week trial against fraud and unfair trade practices claims.
- Defended major entertainment company against defamation claims related to documentary films.
- Defended a major chemical company in connection with breach of a supply contract.
- Defended social media platform in litigation over consumer protection claims.
- Defended a major financial institution at trial against consumers alleging claims for breach of fiduciary duty.
- Represented multiple business clients in connection with restrictive covenants and related employment issues.
- Defended a national hotel franchisor in litigation with franchisees over breach of contract and equitable claims.
- Defended a homeowner's association in a class action trial against homeowners alleging breach of fiduciary duty and other claims.
- Represented developers in connection with claims by homeowners and homeowner's associations related to development of planned communities.
- Represented partners and joint venturers in partnership and venture disputes.
- Represented landlords and tenants in commercial lease disputes.

Education

Vanderbilt University Law School, JD
(2003)

- Named to the Order of the Coif

Davidson College, BA, English, cum
laude, with high honors

- Phi Beta Kappa

Admissions

South Carolina

Practice Areas

[Commercial Litigation & Business Torts](#)

[Appellate Practice & Legal Strategies](#)

[Litigation](#)

[Consumer Financial Services](#)

[Class Action & Multi-Claim Litigation](#)

Industries

[Real Estate](#)

- Represented lenders in commercial judicial foreclosure proceedings and in actions to recover on secured and unsecured commercial notes and guaranties.
- Represented hospitals in lawsuits and arbitration proceedings against physicians and medical practices.
- Represented businesses in commercial contract disputes.

Recognitions

The bar rules of some states require that the standards for an attorney's inclusion in certain public accolades or recognitions be provided. When such accolades or recognitions are listed, a hyperlink is provided that leads to a description of the respective selection methodology.

- [The Best Lawyers in America®](#), Commercial Litigation (2022–2026)
- [Charleston Business Magazine "Legal Elite of the Lowcountry"](#), Business Litigation (2022-2023), Healthcare (2017–2021)
- S.C. Supreme Court Pro Bono Honor Roll ([2021](#))

Professional Activities

- South Carolina Bar
- American Bar Association
- Charleston County Bar Association
- South Carolina Defense Trial Attorneys' Association

Articles & Speeches

Blogs

[Debts of the Dead: Rights of Creditors Against an Estate in South Carolina](#), The Estate Planning & Probate Litigation Blog - Co-Author (June 18, 2020)