

NEWS & INSIGHTS

BIRMINGHAM BUSINESS JOURNAL NAMES BEN WILLSON A 2019 'VETERAN OF INFLUENCE,' FIRM NAMED 'VETERAN-FRIENDLY EMPLOYER'

October 16, 2019

Lightfoot, Franklin & White LLC associate **Ben Willson** has been named a 2019 "Veteran of Influence" by the *Birmingham Business Journal*. The annual award recognizes military veterans who have distinguished themselves in the local business world. The BBJ also recognized Lightfoot, Franklin & White as a "Veteran-friendly Employer," marking the third year in a row the firm has received the honor.

An advisory committee selected honorees based on their contributions to their company, a track record of innovation and leadership, and their role in the Birmingham community. The honorees were celebrated at a special breakfast event on October 17.

"Ben is among several veterans on the Lightfoot team, and we're proud of his continued dedication and contribution to our community," said the firm's managing partner, **Melody Eagan**. "At Lightfoot, we're committed to our service members and their families, and we're pleased to be recognized for it."

Before joining Lightfoot, Willson served in the U.S. Marine Corps. As an active duty Marine, he deployed twice to Iraq as a UH-1N "Huey" helicopter pilot and section leader, and once to Afghanistan as a forward air controller with a rifle company of Marines. Willson dedicated more than eight years to military service in the Middle East before retiring with the rank of Captain.

Today, Willson's legal practice focuses on white-collar criminal defense, corporate investigations, product liability and other complex areas of litigation. He also volunteers his time to pro bono work whenever possible. Willson offers his legal skills to the community through Volunteer Lawyers Birmingham, and he has counseled veterans in need of legal advice through that organization's Veterans Help Desk.

Currently, Lightfoot employs nearly a dozen veterans, both as attorneys and staff. These members of the Lightfoot team represent nearly every branch of the military, including the Army, Navy, Air Force, Marine Corps and National Guard.