

**Brian P. Kappel**

Partner

Birmingham

Phone: 205-949-6394

Fax: 205-581-0799

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

---

**Brian Kappel is a versatile litigator who learned from some of the best.**

Brian P. Kappel is a versatile litigator who cut his teeth alongside Lightfoot's top trial attorneys, and he applies that experience to complex, high-stakes disputes. Clients value his individualized attention, creative problem-solving, and efficient, business-minded strategies. His practice centers on environmental litigation and commercial disputes, with additional depth in class actions, antitrust, employment matters, and collegiate sports/NCAA issues.

Brian represents companies in significant environmental matters across the Southeast, including groundwater and PFAS/PFOA contamination disputes and related regulatory and public-facing challenges. His recent work includes author contributions and editorial review for Chambers' Environmental Law 2025 Alabama guidance, reflecting his on-the-ground perspective for corporate clients navigating evolving environmental frameworks. He has also been recognized in Environmental Litigation by Mid-South Super Lawyers (2023).

Drawing on his background as an Academic All-American baseball player at Princeton and a Minor League relief pitcher, Brian counsels institutions, coaches, administrators, and student-athletes through NCAA compliance investigations and infractions cases, including matters before the NCAA Committees on Infractions and related bodies. He routinely advises on bylaw interpretation, self-reporting, and penalty scope and implementation, and he has helped restore eligibility for several high-profile student-athletes. Brian also provides advice regarding coaching and administrator contracts, NIL strategy, and compliance with federal education rules and regulations, including Title IX, FERPA, and the ADA.

---

**JUDICIAL CLERKSHIPS**

Judge Gerald B. Tjoflat, U.S. Court of Appeals for the 11th Circuit

---

**PROFESSIONAL ORGANIZATIONS**

---

**PRACTICE AREAS**

Automotive  
Class Actions  
Commercial Litigation  
Directors' & Officers' Liability  
Employment Law  
NCAA Compliance & Investigations  
Product Liability

---

**EDUCATION**

Duke University School of Law  
(J.D., *cum laude*)  
Princeton University (B.A.)

---

**BAR ADMISSIONS**

Alabama  
Georgia

---

Alabama Defense Lawyers Association (ADLA)

Defense Research Institute (DRI)

LEAD1

National Association of Athletics Counsel

Sports Lawyers Association, College Sports Committee

## AWARDS

---

*The Best Lawyers in America*® "Ones to Watch" by BL Rankings —  
Commercial Litigation (2021-23)

*The Best Lawyers in America*® by BL Rankings — Commercial  
Litigation, Sports Law (2024-26)

ESPN, CoSIDA Academic All-America Team for baseball (2005)

*Mid-South Super Lawyers* by Thomson Reuters, "Rising Star" —  
Business Litigation (2014-2021), Entertainment & Sports (2021-22),  
Environmental Litigation (2023)

Princeton University, four-year letter winner for baseball (2001-05)

## PRESENTATIONS AND PUBLICATIONS

Presenter, "Outside Counsel for NCAA Compliance: A Practitioner's  
Perspective," (May 3, 2018)