



Enrique J. Gimenez
Partner

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Henry Gimenez is a strategic communicator who is experienced in litigation and collegiate sports law.

Henry represents a wide variety of clients in the areas of litigation and collegiate sports law, from Fortune 500 manufacturers and service providers to NCAA national championship contenders and Heisman Trophy winners. He has represented these clients in an equally wide variety of settings, including state and federal court trials across the Southeast and hearings before the NCAA's Committee on Infractions and Infractions Appeals Committee.

Henry's traditional litigation practice focuses on product liability and commercial cases. In his collegiate sports practice, Henry handles traditional NCAA compliance issues and investigations while also helping colleges and universities with investigations relating to Title IX and student welfare issues, athletics-related employment disputes, negotiating and drafting coaching contracts, and more.

For Henry, success in any arena is rooted in effective communication. Favorable results are largely dependent on an attorney's ability to develop and communicate a compelling, understandable and credible story that will persuade the audience, whether that's a judge, jury or panel of academia members.

As a first-generation Cuban-American, Henry is committed to promoting diversity in the courtroom and ensuring equal access to civil justice for all minorities. He is a member of the Hispanic National Bar Association and served multiple terms as the president of Region VII covering Alabama, Georgia and Mississippi. He recently completed a multiyear term on the Board of Directors for the Alabama Defense Lawyers Association (ADLA) and served on the organization's first-ever Diversity Task Force. He was also selected as a founding member of an Alabama State Bar committee to address providing legal services to the Hispanic community. Additionally, Henry serves on the firm's Diversity Committee and its Associate Committee.

As a proud husband and father to two sons and a daughter, Henry

PRACTICE AREAS

Product Liability
Commercial Litigation
NCAA Compliance & Investigations
Automotive

EDUCATION

University of Alabama School of Law (J.D., *summa cum laude*, 2001)

Auburn University (B.A., *cum laude*, 1998)

BAR ADMISSIONS

Alabama (2001)

strives to emphasize communication at home as much as he does at work. However, he recognizes that as far as his kids are concerned, there is no verbal equivalent to a fistful of Starbursts.

EXPERIENCE

- Advising an SEC institution on the eligibility of its Heisman-winning quarterback.
- Securing a verdict from a Mobile County, Alabama, jury in favor of his client, Honeywell International. The case involved a claim that Honeywell was due damages under a written agreement with a contractor requiring the contractor to indemnify Honeywell for liabilities Honeywell incurred as a result of a wrongful death claim filed by the family of the contractor's employee. After a seven-day trial, the jury agreed, and awarded Honeywell the full amount of its claimed damages. Honeywell was also represented at trial by Lightfoot attorney M. Christian King.
- Investigating allegations relating to student-athlete mistreatment and NCAA violations committed by a head coach at a Power-5 institution, and defending a resulting wrongful termination lawsuit filed by the former head coach in federal court.
- Representing an SEC institution before the Committee on Infractions and Infractions Appeals Committee in one of the largest infractions cases in history, resulting in the vacation of significant penalties.
- Representing football head coaches in the Big 12 and SEC through the NCAA investigative process, including contesting allegations relating to Head Coach Responsibility.
- Conducting an internal investigation into a Division I men's basketball program coming out of the federal corruption scandal.
- Consulting with university presidents, general counsels, and athletics directors on best practices in today's NCAA compliance environment, particularly coming out of the Rice Commission Report.
- Advising football head coaches in Power 5 conferences as to appropriate departmental practices and procedures.

JUDICIAL CLERKSHIPS

Judge James H. Hancock, U.S. District Court for the Northern District of Alabama (2001-02)

PROFESSIONAL ORGANIZATIONS

Alabama Defense Lawyers Association (ADLA)

Hispanic National Bar Association

Law360's Sports & Betting Editorial Board, member (2021)

AWARDS

Alabama Super Lawyers by Thomson Reuters — Personal Injury Defense: General (2014-15)

Alabama Super Lawyers by Thomson Reuters, "Rising Star" —

Business Litigation (2012-13)

Benchmark Litigation, “Local Litigation Star” — Top 10 Plaintiffs (2018-19), Product Liability (2018-2021)

Benchmark Litigation, “Future Star” (2016-17)

The Best Lawyers in America® by BL Rankings — Sports Law (2021-22), Personal Injury Litigation, Product Liability (2022)

Mid-South Super Lawyers by Thomson Reuters — Personal Injury (2016-20)

PRESENTATIONS AND PUBLICATIONS

Presenter, “October 2020 Update: What Every LEAD1 Athletic Department Should Know about NCAA Enforcement & Compliance,” LEAD1 Association (2020)

Presenter, “NCAA’s Adopted Attestation and Certification of Compliance Obligations,” LEAD1 Association (2019)

Presenter, “How ‘Varsity Blues’ Affects College Admissions,” Education Writers Association National Seminar (2019)

COURT ADMISSIONS

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