Lightfoot

Jonathan R. Little
Partner

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Courtroom. Compromise. Whatever the goal, Jonathan Little loves going to battle for his clients.

“The shortest answer is doing the thing.” — Ernest Hemingway

Jonathan excels at “doing the thing” to achieve his clients’ goals. As the beneficiary of courtroom experience early in his career, Jonathan has successfully briefed and argued motions to dismiss, motions for summary judgment, and, when appropriate, successfully settled and tried cases for his clients. Whether through research and writing, or arguing on his feet, Jonathan takes pride in zealous advocacy and loves “doing the thing” to find a solution for his clients’ litigation problems.

A significant portion of Jonathan’s practice is devoted to representing statewide, national, and international media and communications companies. In this area, Jonathan represents journalists, newspapers, broadcasters and media companies in matters ranging from defamation and invasion of privacy lawsuits to First Amendment, censorship, public records and government access claims. He also routinely defends companies in product liability, fire and personal injury litigation.

Making use of his background in economics and banking, Jonathan also represents clients in commercial and securities litigation. Not one to back down from a fight, Jonathan has secured appellate victories for his clients at the Alabama Court of Civil Appeals, the Alabama Supreme Court and the U.S. Court of Appeals for the 11th Circuit.

A member of the firm’s Hiring Committee and chair of the Summer Associate Program, Jonathan participates in the committee’s efforts to bring only the best talent to Lightfoot. Outside of the office, Jonathan enjoys spending time at the lake with his wife, Katie, sons Jack, Sam, George and Shep, and extended family, fishing with bobbers and worms and jumping off the dock to see who can make the biggest splash. According to sources, Jonathan usually makes the biggest splash.

PROFESSIONAL ORGANIZATIONS

PRACTICE AREAS

Catastrophic Injury
Commercial Litigation
Construction
Environmental & Toxic Torts
FINRA Securities Arbitration
Fire & Explosion
Media & Communications Law
Product Liability

EDUCATION

Washington & Lee University School of Law (J.D.)
University of Alabama (M.A.)
University of Alabama (B.S.)

BAR ADMISSIONS

Alabama

Birmingham Bar Association — Young Lawyers Section, Executive Board member

Defense Research Institute (DRI)

Downtown YMCA, Advisory Board member

Freshwater Land Trust, Junior Board member

Washington & Lee University Alumni Association, Birmingham Chapter, Board member

Washington & Lee University School of Law — Young Alumni Council

AWARDS

Birmingham Business Journal, “Birmingham NextGen: Rising Stars of Law” (2020)

The Best Lawyers in America© "Ones to Watch" by BL Rankings— Commercial Litigation, Communications Law, Mass Tort Litigations/Class Actions, Personal Injury Litigation, Product Liability Litigation (2021-2023)

The Best Lawyers in America© by BL Rankings — Mass Tort Litigations/Class Actions, Personal Injury Litigation (2024-27)

Mid-South Super Lawyers by Thomson Reuters, “Rising Star” — Litigation Defense (2016-23)

PRESENTATIONS AND PUBLICATIONS

Addressed school groups from across the state regarding various First Amendment issues related to print and digital media, Alabama Scholastic Press Association State Convention, (2015)

Co-presenter, led discussion on current First Amendment topics in areas such as defamation, publication torts and Section 230 Immunity, MLRC/NAA/NAB Media Law Conference, (2014)

Addressed undergraduate and graduate students in the Department of Journalism, University of Alabama Free Speech Week, (2014)