Lightfoot

Melody H. Eagan
Partner

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Melody Eagan understands that attention to details makes the difference.

Melody has decades of experience defending clients in high-stakes catastrophic injury and wrongful death cases. A trusted regional counsel for a number of manufacturers, Melody has successfully tried numerous cases to verdict throughout the Southeast. She understands that the key to handling product liability cases is a detailed understanding of the product's design and utility, and because of her experience and attention to detail, Melody is at home presenting complex engineering concepts to juries in an easy-to-understand fashion, picking apart experts' theories and defending her clients' products.

In addition to her product liability practice, Melody regularly represents doctors and hospitals in medical malpractice cases. She also serves as appellate counsel for a number of clients, assisting them not only with appeals but also preparation and oral argument of dispositive and other significant pretrial motions at the trial court level.

Melody served two consecutive terms as Lightfoot's managing partner from 2018 to 2025, making history as the firm's first woman in that role. During her eight-year tenure, she led the firm through some of the most significant growth in its history, strengthening its reputation and expanding its reach across the Southeast. Melody previously served as the president of the Alabama Defense Lawyers Association (ADLA) in 2012-13, only the third woman ever elected to the office. Melody is also a member of the 2018 Leadership Alabama class.

Melody's interests outside of work center around her family, church, and music. Married to a trial lawyer, she is a proud mother and a classically trained musician. At her church, Melody plays the piano, teaches youth Sunday school, and serves as Senior Warden on the Vestry. Additionally, she is actively involved in community organizations. Melody serves on the Board of Directors for Better Basics, where she currently holds the position of Secretary, and is also a member of the Board of Directors and Executive Committee for the Virginia Samford Theatre.

PRACTICE AREAS

Appellate
Automotive
Catastrophic Injury
Commercial Litigation
Environmental & Toxic Torts
Fire & Explosion
Pharma & Medical Device
Medical Malpractice
Product Liability
Professional Liability

EDUCATION

Vanderbilt University Law School (J.D.)
Order of the Coif; Managing Editor, *Vanderbilt Law Review*
Hendrix College (B.A., *summa cum laude*)

BAR ADMISSIONS

Alabama
Mississippi
Tennessee

These roles underscore her commitment to education, community development, and the arts.

In her spare time, Melody enjoys playing piano, gardening, relieving stress on her Peloton, and spending quality time with her family, which includes her husband, children spanning over two decades, grandchildren, and two co-dependent dogs.

AWARDS

Chambers USA, “Leading Lawyer” for Litigation (Alabama)

Benchmark Litigation, “Local Litigation Star” — Product Liability (2020-21)

Benchmark Litigation, “Litigation Star” (2022-26)

Benchmark Litigation, "Top 250 Women in Litigation" (2019-24, 2026)

The Best Lawyers in America© by BL Rankings — Personal Injury Litigation, Product Liability Litigation (2010-27)

The Best Lawyers in America© by BL Rankings, “Lawyer of the Year” for Birmingham — Product Liability Litigation, Personal Injury Litigation (2023, 2025)

Birmingham Business Journal, "Top Birmingham Woman" (2020)

Birmingham Business Journal, “Who’s Who in Law” (2018-21)

B-Metro magazine, “Top Women Attorneys” (2018, 2020)

B-Metro magazine, "Top Flight Attorneys" (2019)

Lawdragon, "100 Managing Partners You Need to Know" guide (2025)

Mid-South Super Lawyers by Thomson Reuters, "Top Lawyer" (2024)

Mid-South Super Lawyers by Thomson Reuters, "Top 50 Women" (2020)

Mid-South Super Lawyers by Thomson Reuters — Product Liability (2011-26)

National Law Journal — Elite Boutique Trailblazer (2018)

PROFESSIONAL ORGANIZATIONS

Alabama Defense Lawyers Association (ADLA)

Alabama Law Foundation, Fellow

Better Basics, Board Member, Secretary

Defense Research Institute (DRI)

Leadership Alabama, Fellow, Regional Counsel

The Virginia Samford Theatre, Board Member, Executive Committee