



Rachel M. Lary
Partner

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Rachel Lary: A National Litigator with Alabama Roots

Rachel Lary has built a reputation as a go-to trial lawyer for some of the country's biggest companies — but she remains deeply connected to her roots in Alabama. Known for her focus, strategy and trusted advocacy, Rachel serves as national litigation counsel for several Fortune 500 corporations, including a global truck manufacturer, a multinational automaker and a national rental equipment company.

An engaging communicator, Rachel commands attention in any setting, whether she's in front of a jury, a boardroom of executives, or a room of young professionals she's mentoring. She has defended high-stakes product liability and medical malpractice cases, and she also handles complex trust, estate and business disputes in courts across the country.

Her track record of success speaks for itself: securing a trial win in Washington, D.C., that slashed a plaintiff's multimillion-dollar demand in an admitted liability case to just 10 percent; defeating wrongful death claims against an Alabama cardiologist before the jury even deliberated; and winning multimillion-dollar summary judgments and settlements in business and fiduciary disputes.

Rachel's approach is as strategic as it is personal. She believes every case has a story — and her strength lies in uncovering the details that persuade courts and juries to see it her clients' way.

A leader within her firm, Lightfoot, Franklin & White, Rachel has chaired the Associate Committee and now leads the Marketing and Business Development Committee. Her peers and the industry have taken notice: she was named one of the *Top Birmingham Women* by the *Birmingham Business Journal* in 2024 and a *Future Litigation Star* by *Benchmark Litigation*. She has also been consistently recognized in *Best Lawyers in America* since 2018, including as "Lawyer of the Year" in its 2026 edition.

Beyond the courtroom, Rachel is committed to giving back. She serves as Chair of the Board of Girls, Inc. of Central Alabama, an organization

PRACTICE AREAS

Automotive
Commercial Litigation
Pharma & Medical Device
Medical Malpractice
Product Liability
Trust & Estate Disputes
White-Collar Criminal Defense &
Corporate Investigations

EDUCATION

Samford University, Cumberland
School of Law (J.D., *magna cum laude*)
University of Alabama (B.A.,
magna cum laude)

BAR ADMISSIONS

Alabama
Mississippi

dedicated to inspiring girls to be strong, smart and bold. At home in Homewood, she and her husband are raising their teenage daughter and young son, alongside their energetic German Shorthaired Pointer.

JUDICIAL CLERKSHIPS

Joel F. Dubina, Chief Justice, U.S. Court of Appeals for the 11th Circuit

PROFESSIONAL ORGANIZATIONS

Alabama Defense Lawyers Association (ADLA), Task Force Committee (2009)

Alabama State Bar, Lawyers Voices for Survivors Task Force, Co-Chair (2020-21)

Alabama State Bar, Pro Bono Committee, member (2020-21)

Birmingham Bar Association, Women's Section Membership Committee Co-Chair (2009-10)

Defense Research Institute (DRI), Women in Law Committee (2011-12)

Girls, Inc. of Alabama, Board of Directors, Governance Committee chair (2020-21), Vice Chair (2022-2023)

Product Liability Advisory Council (PLAC)

The Service Guild of Birmingham

The Trial Network, Women in Network Society

AWARDS

The Best Lawyers in America® by BL Rankings — Commercial Litigation, Corporate Compliance Law, Trusts and Estates, Personal Injury, Product Liability Litigation (2018-2024)

Benchmark Litigation, "Future Star" (2024)

B-Metro magazine, "Top Women Attorneys" (2020)

Birmingham Business Journal, "NextGenBHM Award" (2020)

Birmingham Business Journal, "Rising Star in Law" (2019)

Birmingham Business Journal, "Top Birmingham Women" (2024)

Birmingham Business Journal, "Women to Watch" Award (2021)

Mid-South Super Lawyers by Thomson Reuters, "Rising Star" — Business Litigation (2014-20)

Mid-South Super Lawyers by Thomson Reuters — Product Liability (2024)

PRESENTATIONS AND PUBLICATIONS

Speaker, "Ethical Considerations in Challenging Environments," CLE presentation, (2018)

Panelist, "What Not to Do — Mistakes We Have Seen," U.S. Court of Appeals for the 11th Circuit Appellate Practice Institute, (2010)

Author, "Retail Store Size-Capping Ordinances and the Dormant Commerce Clause Doctrine," *The Urban Lawyer: The National Journal*

