



Sara Anne Ford

Partner

Birmingham

Phone: 205-581-0752

Fax: 205-581-0799

sford@lightfootlaw.com

Sara Ford is the real deal!

In her 30-plus years in practice, Sara has handled just about every kind of lawsuit you can think of – from shareholder derivative suits to medical device litigation, from disputes about insurance (life, title, commercial general liability) to claims based on federal statutes (RICO, TCPA, ERISA).

She is the editor of the Lightfoot series "**Top 10 Q&A For Product Liability Class Actions.**"

Sara was recently listed by *The Best Lawyers in America* by Woodward White, Inc. for her work in commercial litigation, banking and finance, environmental, mergers and acquisitions, real estate, and securities. In its 2018 edition, she was listed as the 2018 "Birmingham Lawyer of the Year" for litigation relating to mergers and acquisitions. She was also recently named one of the 2018 "Top Women Attorneys" by *B-Metro Magazine*.

Sara loves the challenge of a business dispute. She understands business and knows that a business resolution is often the best outcome, but when a fight is needed, she is ready for it.

Sara has long defended companies in class and mass litigation. She handled her first class action more than 20 years ago, and there have been few times since then that she has not had one or more class suits on her plate. Unlike most attorneys, Sara has experience actually *trying* class action cases.

Community is important to Sara, both her professional community and her community in Birmingham. She is an adjunct professor of Class Actions and Litigation Strategy at the University of Alabama School of Law. She is active in the International Association of Defense Counsel. She is an involved member of the Rotary Club of Birmingham and St. Luke's Episcopal Church.

Sara has two grown sons of whom she is most proud. One is a fifth-year orthopedic surgery resident, and the other is a software engineer.

PRACTICE AREAS

Banking & Financial Services
Class Actions
Commercial Litigation
Consumer Fraud & Bad Faith
FINRA Securities Arbitration
Professional Liability
Securities & Shareholder Disputes
Automotive
Product Liability

EDUCATION

Mississippi State University
(B.S., *magna cum laude*, 1979)
Emory University School of Law
(J.D., 1984)
with distinction

BAR ADMISSIONS

Alabama (1996)
Georgia (1984)

She enjoys traveling with her husband and sons, reading, gardening and snow skiing.

EXPERIENCE

- Stopping class certification for manufacturer client before discovery ensued.
- Defending medical billing records custodian in putative class action in Wisconsin alleging overcharges in the provision of records.
- Resolving 50+ lawsuits for a retailer whose employees opened customer accounts without their authority.
- Obtaining a \$13 million settlement for a majority investor in a manufacturing company based on representations and warranties in the stock purchase agreement.
- Securing the settlement and dismissal of a national class action lawsuit filed in Maine against a boiler manufacturer, having successfully attacked the class warranty and tort claims at the pleadings stage.
- Securing the settlement of a medical device case upon obtaining testimony from the co-defendant treating surgeon that the device was not defective.
- Counseling individual accountants regarding their departure from an accounting firm to join a competitor.
- Defending a national retailer in a governmental inquiry regarding its returns policy, with the inquiry being closed without any legal proceeding or settlement.
- Representing the owner of a hotel in Latvia in a dispute with its management company.

PROFESSIONAL ORGANIZATIONS

Defense Research Institute (DRI)

International Association of Defense Counsel

PRESENTATIONS AND PUBLICATIONS

Editor, "Top 10 Q&A For Product Liability Class Actions," Lightfoot, Franklin & White (2019)

Co-Author, "Is There Federal Subject Matter Jurisdiction Under the Class Action Fairness Act?" Top 10 Q&A for Product Liability Class Actions (2019)

Presenter, "#MeToo, Securities Law and Class Actions," White Collar Institute (May 2018)

AWARDS

Alabama Super Lawyers — Business Litigation (2011-15)

The Best Lawyers in America® — Commercial Litigation, Banking and Finance Litigation, Environmental Litigation, Mergers and Acquisitions Litigation, Real Estate Litigation, Securities Litigation (2018-20)

The Best Lawyers in America©, "Lawyer of the Year" — Mergers and Acquisitions Litigation (2018, 2020)

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

B-Metro magazine, "Top Women Attorneys" (2018)

Mid-South Super Lawyers — Business Litigation (2016-19)