

John E. Stephenson, Jr. Partner

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John E. Stephenson, Jr., is a trial lawyer and represents plaintiffs and defendants in bet-the-company litigation and regulatory matters across a wide range of industries, including financial services, technology, health care and automotive.

John maintains a national practice and serves as lead trial counsel in complex litigation on behalf of public and private companies and individuals involving tens of billions of dollars of claims in controversy. His international litigation experience includes cases against one of the largest state-owned corporations in the People's Republic of China, litigation against Saudi Arabian financial institutions, the representation of the CEO of one of the largest financial institutions in Europe, and mass disaster litigation in Nova Scotia, Nairobi, Kenya and the Turks and Caicos Islands.

John is the former leader of Alston & Bird's Plaintiff Litigation Team, which recovered more than \$2 billion for plaintiffs in business and personal injury litigation.

During his career, John also served as chief risk officer for a company he helped take public in the automotive technology sector.

In 2005, John was honored by the ACLU for his pro bono representation of plaintiffs in civil rights litigation. In 2006, he received the Outstanding Service Award from the Stonewall Bar Association for his work on equal rights litigation.

Representative Experience

- Counsel for the Enron Examiner, with lead responsibility for investigating and reporting on the roles of the financial institutions, accountants, and officers and directors in Enron's bankruptcy. This examination identified more than \$7 billion in potential claims against these parties and others.
- Counsel for an automotive technology company in regulatory and litigation matters throughout the country.
- Trial counsel for the CEO of Credit Lyonnais in connection with criminal and civil matters pending in Paris, Los Angeles, New York and Washington, D.C., arising from the acquisition of a \$3.5 billion bond portfolio from Executive Life, a California insurance company. All material witnesses were French nationals, and trial testimony was taken in the Palais de Justice in Paris before a French judge.
- Trial counsel for NASCAR and its affiliates in numerous lawsuits across the country.
- Trial counsel for WebMD in cutting-edge privacy litigation in the Eastern District of North Carolina arising from the multibillion-dollar acquisition of the world's largest medical claims clearinghouse.
- Trial counsel for a public company in the renegotiation, workout and litigation of technology-driven strategic relationships, equity investments, service agreements and related business relationships involving hundreds of millions of dollars in claims and equity holdings with current and former business partners in the U.S. and abroad, including matters in California, Georgia, New Jersey, New York, Texas, Washington and the UK.

- Trial counsel for a multinational corporation in international business tort litigation against the procurement arm for the People's Liberation Army in the People's Republic of China relating to the manufacture and global sale of surplus military weaponry. Case discovery included depositions in Beijing and the tracing of international funds transactions through offshore banking and reinsurance companies in the Cayman Islands.
- Trial counsel for major financial institutions in restructuring, workout and litigation relating to billions of dollars in structured financing transactions.
- Trial counsel for the plaintiffs in numerous complex business disputes and wrongful death and catastrophic injury cases, including cases arising from aviation and marine disasters, resulting in the recovery of more than \$100 million for his clients.
- Trial counsel for plaintiffs in complex litigation in the Southern District of New York arising from a Ponzi scheme involving hundreds of millions of dollars.
- Trial counsel for multiple public and private companies in the defense of class action lawsuits seeking billions of dollars in alleged damages in the health care and financial services industries.
- Lead counsel in numerous state and federal appellate court arguments across the country.

Professional & Community Engagement

- American Bar Association
- American Association of Justice
- State Bar of Georgia, Litigation Section
- University of North Carolina School of Law, board of directors
- University of North Carolina, alumni advisor
- United Way of Metro Atlanta, Alexis de Tocqueville Society

Education

- The University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill (J.D., 1984)
- The University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill (B.A., 1981)

Admitted to Practice

- Georgia

Related Services

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