

William L. Harbison

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Bill Harbison works primarily in the areas of corporate law and trusts and estates. He also handles litigation in those same practice categories.

A *cum laude* graduate of Harvard Law School, Bill received his bachelor's degree with highest honors in English from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. He is a member of Phi Beta Kappa.

Bill has been ranked Band 1 by *Chambers USA* for his work in Litigation and by the *Chambers High Net Worth Guide* for his work in Private Wealth Law. *Best Lawyers in America*® has consistently listed Bill in the areas of Bet-the-Company Litigation, Commercial Litigation, Elder Law; Litigation – Trusts and Estates, and Trusts and Estates. He has also been recognized by *Best Lawyers in America*® as a "Lawyer of the Year" in Nashville for Bet-the-Company Litigation, Elder Law, Litigation – Trusts and Estates, and Trusts and Estates.

Bill is a Fellow of the American College of Trusts and Estate Counsel (ACTEC).









Education

- Harvard Law School, J.D, *cum laude*
- University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, B.A., with highest honors

Admissions

- Supreme Court of the United States
- Tennessee
- U.S. Court of Appeals, Sixth Circuit

Recognition

- ACLU Bill of Rights Award (2015)
- *Attorney at Law Magazine* "Attorney of the Month" (December 2015)
- *Benchmark Litigation* "Litigation Star," Appellate, Commercial, Trusts and Estates (2014 – 2026)
- *Best Lawyers in America*®, Bet-the-Company Litigation (2007 – 2027), Commercial Litigation (2006 – 2027), Elder Law (2013 – 2027), Litigation – Trusts and Estates (2011 – 2027), Trusts and Estates (2001 – 2027)
- *Best Lawyers in America*® "Lawyer of the Year," Nashville, Bet-the-Company Litigation (2014, 2017)
- *Best Lawyers in America*® "Lawyer of the Year," Nashville, Elder Law (2019)
- *Best Lawyers in America*® "Lawyer of the Year," Nashville, Litigation – Trusts and Estates (2013, 2015, 2024)
- *Best Lawyers in America*® "Lawyer of the Year," Nashville, Trusts and Estates (2011, 2018, 2024)
- *Business TN Magazine* "150 Best Lawyers" (2010)
- *Chambers USA*, Litigation: General Commercial (2006 – 2026)
- *Chambers USA High Net Worth Guide*, Private Wealth Law (2022 – 2026)
- *Legal 500*, US City Elite – Nashville, Commercial Disputes (2026)
- Martindale-Hubbell®, AV Preeminent Peer Review Rated
- *Mid-South Super Lawyers*, Estate and Trust Litigation, Business Litigation (2006 – 2026)
- *Mid-South Super Lawyers* "Top 50: Nashville Super Lawyers" (2012 – 2014, 2017, 2019, 2021 – 2026)
- *Mid-South Super Lawyers* "Top 100: Tennessee Super Lawyers" (2006 – 2014, 2019, 2021 – 2026)
- Nashville Bar Association John C. Tune Public Service Award (2017)
- *Nashville Business Journal* "Best of The Bar" (2008 – 2009, 2011 – 2015)
- *Nashville Scene* "Nashvillian of the Year" (2015)
- Nashville School of Law Faculty & Community Service Honoree (2024)
- Tennessee Bar Association Harris Gilbert Pro Bono Attorneys of the Year Award (2012, 2025)
- Tennessee Bar Association Joseph W. Henry Award (1985)

- Tennessee Supreme Court Attorneys for Justice Honor Roll (2015 – 2017, 2020 – 2023)
- The Best Attorneys Network, Commercial/Business Litigation and Wills (2007 – 2008)
- The Best of the U.S. LLC, Trusts and Estates, Tax Law and Commercial Litigation (2006 – 2008)

Publications

- "**President's Perspective: Last Lines**," *Tennessee Bar Journal,* Vol. 52, No. 6, June 2016
- "**This Mentor Relationship Withstood the Test of Time**," *Tennessee Bar Journal,* Vol. 52, No. 5, May 2016
- "**Competition Can Be Beneficial, But Also Corrosive**," *Tennessee Bar Journal,* Vol. 52, No. 4, April 2016
- "**Remembering Justice Scalia**," *Tennessee Bar Journal,* Vol. 52, No. 3, March 2016
- "**Contempt Case Helped Develop Due Process Concept**," *Tennessee Bar Journal,* Vol. 52, No. 2, February 2016
- "**Access to Justice Is Part of 'Thinking Like a Lawyer'**," *Tennessee Bar Journal,* Vol. 52, No. 1, January 2016
- "**Evolving Legal Markets**" *Tennessee Bar Journal,* Vol. 51, No. 12, December 2015
- "**History Shows 1881 Was a Very Important Year**" *Tennessee Bar Journal,* Vol. 51, No. 11, November 2015
- "**A Speech on Appreciation**" *Tennessee Bar Journal,* Vol. 51, No. 10, October 2015
- "**A Speech on Tolerance**" *Tennessee Bar Journal,* Vol. 51, No. 9, September 2015
- "**President's Perspective: Generation Gaps**" *Tennessee Bar Journal,* Vol. 51, No. 8, August 2015
- "**Publicly and Privately, Lawyers Champion Justice for Others**" *Tennessee Bar Journal,* Vol. 51, No. 7, July 2015

Professional Activities

- Fellow, American Bar Foundation
- Fellow, American College of Trust and Estate Counsel
- Fellow, Nashville Bar Foundation
- Fellow, Tennessee Bar Foundation
- Former General Counsel to the Tennessee Bar Association
- Hearing Panel Member, Tennessee Board of Professional Responsibility
- Lecturer for the Tennessee and Nashville Bar Associations
- Member, Civil Rights & Social Justice, Litigation, and Real Property, Trust and Estate Law Sections, American Bar Association
- Member, Estate Planning and Probate and Litigation Sections, Tennessee Bar Association
- Member, Nashville Bar Association
- Member, Tennessee Supreme Court Board of Law Examiners
- Member and Past President, Nashville Estate Planning Council
- Past President, Nashville Bar Association
- Past President, Nashville Bar Foundation (2002-2006)
- Past President, Tennessee Bar Association
- Selected by the Tennessee Supreme Court to serve on the Board of Professional Responsibility Advisory Committee

Civic Activities

- Past Member, Nashville Metropolitan Planning Commission