

# Eric G. Osborne

P (615) 742-4544

F (615) 742-4539

eosborne@srvhlaw.com

An accomplished attorney and Professor of Contracts, Eric sees litigation as an opportunity to protect his clients' business and personal interests, to advance critical principles of justice and fairness, and to help people in times of crisis and need. Eric focuses his practice on contract disputes, white-collar criminal defense, antitrust, and civil rights cases. He has briefed multiple matters before the United States Supreme Court and has tried over a dozen jury trials.

In the last few years Eric has handled some of the highest-profile civil rights cases in Tennessee and, in doing so, has developed a reputation for taking on controversial cases across the political spectrum. Eric's recent work includes *Hall v. Trump*, which resulted in the end of solitary confinement in Tennessee, *Ashe / Lawson v. Hargett*, which challenges the constitutionality of a statute that criminalizes voting in political primary elections, and *Newsom v. Golden*, which was heard by the Tennessee Supreme Court and clarified the parameters of the Tennessee Open Meetings Act. For the past year, Eric has been the lead lawyer on behalf of the Covenant School Parents in *Brewer v. Metro*, a case that has drawn national attention for the parents' effort to protect children from harm by preventing the release of a school shooter's writings.

In his commercial litigation practice, Eric regularly handles complex cases involving contract construction and a wide range of other business disputes. Reflective of his sophistication in these matters, Eric currently serves as a Professor of Contracts at the Nashville School of Law. Much of Eric's practice has focused on appellate and trial-level briefing of complex issues in federal and state courts, and his appellate work has earned him recognition by his peers as a *Mid-South Super Lawyers* "Rising Star," Appellate for the past six years.

Much of Eric's work involves helping clients address issues pertaining to government. In addition to the civil rights work noted above, this includes criminal defense, where Eric brings both prosecutorial and defense-side experience to his representation in white-collar criminal matters, including those involving the False Claims Act, Foreign Corrupt Practices Act, the Anti-Kickback Statute, and the Office of Foreign Asset Control. Eric has also handled multiple bid protests at the municipal and state level for clients challenging or defending government contract awards.



In antitrust matters, Eric focuses his talents on major national cases, including antitrust actions against the credit card and packaged seafood industries. Eric currently leads the firm's effort on behalf of many of the country's largest employers against the Blue Cross Blue Shield Association and its members.

In addition to teaching contracts, Eric is committed to the community. He serves as the outside general counsel to multiple non-profit clients. Eric is also involved with legal aid and contributes substantial pro bono time every year. For example, in 2016, Eric helped draft an open letter to Secretary of State John Kerry that contributed to the State Department declaring that ISIS was committing genocide against the Christians in Iraq and Syria. Since 2019 Eric has served as an inaugural member of the Legal Services Corporation's Emerging Leaders Council, a national group of young leaders working to increase public awareness of and support for equal access to justice for low-income Americans.

A graduate of Princeton Theological Seminary and lifelong Presbyterian, Eric has a robust practice serving the legal needs of churches and not-for-profit organizations. He also volunteers his time and efforts on behalf of several religious and charitable endeavors. For eight years he served on the board of the Presbyterian Foundation—the national foundation that supports the mission of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.), and he previously served on the board of the Medical Benevolence Foundation, which provides medical care and medical training in some of the poorest countries in the world. Locally, Eric serves on the board of the Nashville Wine Auction and is a deacon, and serves on the Endowment Committee at First Presbyterian Church.

Eric is married to Eleanor, a physician. Eric and Eleanor are both native Tennesseans with family ties that go back over a century in the state.

#### Education

- Stanford Law School, J.D.
- · Princeton Theological Seminary, Master of Divinity
- Amherst College, B.A., cum laude

#### Admissions

- District of Columbia
- Supreme Court of the United States
- Tennessee
- Texas
- U.S. District Court, Eastern District of Michigan
- U.S. District Court, Eastern District of Tennessee
- U.S. District Court, Middle District of Tennessee
- U.S. District Court, Southern District of Texas
- U.S. District Court, Western District of Tennessee
- U.S. Court of Appeals, Sixth Circuit

## Recognition

- Best Lawyers in America®, Commercial Litigation (2024 2026)
- Best Lawyers in America® "One to Watch," Commercial Litigation (2021 2023)
- Mid-South Super Lawyers "Rising Star," Appellate (2016 2021)
- Nashville Bar Journal Article of the Year Award (2024)
- Tennessee Bar Association Harris Gilbert Pro Bono Attorneys of the Year Award (2025)

## **Publications**

- Eric G. Osborne et al, "Democracy, The Justice Gap, and Preserving the Rule of Law," Nashville Bar Journal
   , Summer 2024
- "A Tradition of Volunteering: The Case for Pro Bono," Justice Rising, Sep 21, 2021
- Eric Osborne, What You Wish You Knew Before Filing a Lawsuit, Sherrard Roe Blog (July 12, 2021)



- Eric G. Osborne et al, "Intending the Worst: ISIS's Specific Intent to Destroy the Christians of Iraq," 46
   Pepperdine L. Rev. 545 (2019)
- Eric G. Osborne et al, "Rethinking Deference: How the History of Church Property Disputes Calls Into Question Long-Standing First Amendment Doctrine," 69 SMU L. Rev. 811 (2016)

## **Speaking Engagements**

- "Democracy, the Justice Gap, and Preserving the Rule of Law," Co-presenter, Nashville Bar Association Voices of Democracy Law Day (April 26, 2024)
- "A Punch List for Construction of Statutes and Contracts," Presenter, TBA Federal Practice Section's Annual CLE (September 2020)
- "Legal Aid and the Importance of Access to Justice," Presenter, Tennessee Bar Association's Litigation Law Ethics Forum CLE (March 30, 2021)

## **Professional Activities**

- Fellow, Nashville Bar Foundation
- Member, Litigation Section, American Bar Association
- Member, Nashville Bar Association
- Member, Appellate Practice and Litigation Sections, Tennessee Bar Association

#### Civic Activities

- · Board of Directors, Nashville Wine Auction
- Session Class of 2027, First Presbyterian Church

