

**Saline County Library  
Board of Trustees  
Agenda for Special Meeting**

**Date: 8/7/23 | Time: 3:30 p.m.**

**1800 Smithers, Benton, AR**

1. Call to Order
2. Announcements/Public Comment - Speakers must complete the Request to Speak Before the Board form and have it turned in to the Library Director or any Board Member by noon of the day of the board meeting.
3. Unfinished Business
  - a. Selection of Law Firm
  - b. Selection of Accounting Firm
4. New Business
  - a. None

Adjourn

Next regular board meeting September 18, 2023

George J. Bequette, Jr.  
Keith I. Billingsley  
W. Cody Kees

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Philip M. Brick, Jr.  
Jacquelyn Harrison



Simmons Bank Tower  
425 West Capitol Avenue, Suite 3200  
Little Rock, Arkansas 72201-3469  
www.bbpalaw.com  
(T) (501) 374-1107  
(F) (501) 374-5092

July 19, 2023

**VIA OVERNIGHT MAIL**

Ms. Patty Hector  
Saline Library  
Library Director  
1800 Smithers Drive  
Benton, AR 72015

Re: Request for Qualifications for Legal Services

Dear Ms. Hector:

It is our privilege to submit a response to the Saline County Public Library's ("Saline Library") Request for Qualifications for Legal Services. Please feel free to contact us with any questions or comments.

**Responses to RFQ Requests and Requirements**

1. Name, address, telephone number and web address of the firm.

Bequette, Billingsley & Kees, P.A.  
425 West Capitol Avenue, Suite 3200  
Little Rock, Arkansas 72201-3469  
(501) 374-1107  
<https://www.bbpalaw.com/>

Bequette, Billingsley & Kees, P.A., is a law firm based in Little Rock, Arkansas, which represents school districts and other public entity clients and private clients throughout the State of Arkansas and, in some cases, in other states across the United States.

2. Name, telephone number and email address of the primary contact person.

Jay Bequette  
Work: (501) 374-1107

Cell: (501) 590-4500  
Email: [jbequette@bbpalaw.com](mailto:jbequette@bbpalaw.com)

The firm has been in existence since 1980. Jay Bequette joined the firm in 1989, Keith Billingsley became a member of the firm in 1996, Cody Kees was hired in 2016 and became a member of the firm in 2018, Jacqueline Harrison joined the firm in 2021, and Phillip Brick was hired in 2023. The firm has three legal assistants.

3. Name, address and contact information for each associated firm if any.

Not applicable.

4. Resumes of key personnel from each firm who would be assigned to this project. Clearly identify who will be your team leader, and what role of each participating individual will be relative to the project.

Accompanying this letter are the resumes of Jay Bequette, Keith Billingsley and Cody Kees, the key personnel who will work on any project or matter for the Saline Library. Jay Bequette will serve as the team leader and primary contact. Our firm works collaboratively and efficiently to provide the highest level of legal service at the most reasonable cost. The roles for each attorney on a project (if the matter requires multiple attorneys) will be determined by the nature and scope of the work required by the matter. All of the firm's attorneys have extensive experience in the legal issues frequently faced by public entities.

The firm has five lawyers, three of whom are partners and two attorneys who are of counsel, and three legal assistants. We currently represent a number of large school districts, so the firm does not anticipate any issues in connection with the volume of the work for the Saline Library. The firm has sufficient staff and resources to provide the highest quality of legal services to the Saline Library.

5. Provide your specific experience with providing review and recommendations to governmental agencies or boards, as well as, expertise associated with Constitutional Law, including the First Amendment.

The firm has represented public school districts in Arkansas since 1991. The firm has served as outside general counsel to the Arkansas School Boards Association ("ASBA") since 2012 and previously was outside general counsel to the Arkansas Association of Educational Administrators ("AAEA"). The firm has represented nearly 200 school districts and twelve educational cooperatives in Arkansas, appearing at more than 300 school board hearings, in addition to representing the districts and their boards in hundreds of litigation matters in courts and other tribunals.

Due to our representation of numerous school districts in Arkansas, we have significant experience in advising public entities, including their board members and administrative staff, on their responsibilities and obligations under the Arkansas Freedom of Information Act's public records and open meetings requirement. Moreover, our representation of school districts has involved the defense of numerous constitutional claims in state and federal courts, many if not most of which have arisen under the First Amendment. In addition, our practice necessarily involves frequent professional development and training engagements for school board members and school district educators, much of which necessarily involves advising our clients on their obligations under the First Amendment, both in the context of employment-related First Amendment issues and matters arising from First Amendment free speech claims made by patrons and other third parties. Also, we are the editors of the *School Law* and *School Law Review* columns for the quarterly publications of the ASBA and AAEA, the content of which frequently involves analysis and review of significant First Amendment cases and issues.

The firm understands that it is in the service business, which means that we are fully dedicated to serving the needs of our clients. The firm's singular goal is to provide the highest quality legal representation at the most reasonable and cost-effective cost. The firm's partners have more than 30 years of experience in representing clients in diverse litigation and transactional matters, and are rated "AV" for their professional ability and ethical standards by Martindale-Hubbell, the gold standard in attorney ratings.

The firm is available to its school district clients at any time to provide assistance, including weekends and evenings, since matters which require consultation in this area of practice can literally occur at any time.

Should you have further questions, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,

*Jay Bequette*

Jay Bequette

## GEORGE J. (JAY) BEQUETTE, JR.

**Phone:** 501-374-1107 **Facsimile:** 501-374-5092 **Email:** [jbequette@bbpalaw.com](mailto:jbequette@bbpalaw.com)

### **PERSONAL STATEMENT**

Jay Bequette is admitted to numerous areas of practice before multiple state and federal courts throughout the United States. Since he began practicing law in 1987, Jay has tried over 60 jury trials to verdict in federal and state courts throughout the country. He has tried hundreds of bench trials to verdict and successfully negotiated millions of dollars in settlements.

- Arguing over 20 appeals in federal appeals courts, state supreme court, and court of appeals
- Has represented parties in numerous arbitrations and mediations before various tribunals
- Filing briefs before the United States Supreme Court
- Represented two defendants in the Whitewater investigation conducted by Judge Kenneth Starr during the Clinton presidency

When out of the office, Jay enjoys golfing, weightlifting, and fly-fishing. He has been married to his wife Cindy since 1987 and has three sons: Jake, Sam, and Joe.

### **AREAS OF PRACTICE**

- General civil litigation
- Complex litigation
- Employment law
- Education law
- Business litigation
- Business transactions
- Products liability
- Professional liability
- Class actions
- Personal injury

### **ADMITTED**

- 1987, Arkansas
- 1989, U.S. District Court, Eastern District of Arkansas
- 1997, U.S. Supreme Court

- 1998, U.S. Court of Appeals, Eighth Circuit

## **EDUCATION**

- University of Arkansas (Fayetteville) – J.D. 1987
- University of Arkansas (Fayetteville) – B.S.B.A.(Finance) 1983
  - All Student Judiciary
  - Razorback Football Team (1979-1983)

## **MEMBER**

- Pulaski County Bar Association
- Arkansas Bar Association
- Chair, Member Benefits Committee, 2000-2007

## **BIOGRAPHY**

- AV-Rated by Martindale-Hubbell®
- Deputy Prosecuting Attorney, Sixth Judicial District, Pulaski County, Arkansas, 1987-1989
- Life Member of University of Arkansas-Fayetteville Alumni Association
- Member of Arkansas Razorback Letterman's Club (President 1993-1994)
- Performs pro bono work for Center for Arkansas Legal Services
- Conducted numerous seminars on many topics related to education and employment law

Born: Lawrence, Kansas, June 7, 1961

## KEITH BILLINGSLEY

**Phone:** 501-374-1107 **Facsimile:** 501-374-5092 **Email:** [kbillingsley@bbpalaw.com](mailto:kbillingsley@bbpalaw.com)

### PERSONAL STATEMENT

Since he began practicing law in 1986, Keith Billingsley has accrued significant experience in both federal and state courts, including the United States Supreme Court.

- Litigated hundreds of jury and bench trials to verdict
- Arbitrated millions of dollars worth of claims
- Successfully negotiated millions of dollars in settlements

When not in court, Keith enjoys golfing, hunting, fishing, and spending time with his family. He has been married to his wife Tracy since 1985, and they have two children: Kyle and Kara.

### AREAS OF PRACTICE

- Civil litigation
- Complex litigation
- Commercial law
- Business litigation
- Personal injury
- Employment litigation
- Products liability
- Class action litigation
- Business transactions
- Real estate law
- Family law
- Education law
- Equine/gaming law

### ADMITTED

- 1986, Arkansas and U.S. District Court, Eastern District of Arkansas
- 1997, U.S. Supreme Court
- 1998, U.S. Court of Appeals, Eighth Circuit

**EDUCATION**

- University of Arkansas, J.D.,1986
- Hendrix College, B.A.,1983

**MEMBER**

- Pulaski County Bar Association
- Arkansas Bar Association

**BIOGRAPHY**

- AV-Rated by Martindale-Hubbell®
- Performs pro bono legal work for the Center for Arkansas Legal Services
- Has participated in numerous legal seminars and events

Born: Little Rock, Arkansas, April 24, 1962



## CODY KEES

**Phone:** 501-374-1107 **Facsimile:** 501-374-5092 **Email:** [ckees@bbpalaw.com](mailto:ckees@bbpalaw.com)

### PERSONAL STATEMENT

Cody Kees is a trial attorney at BBK with a focus on employment, business, municipality and personal injury litigation. Cody began practicing law in 2012, and prior to joining BBK in 2016, he spent four years with a Little Rock civil defense firm, primarily handling insurance defense litigation.

At BBK, Cody regularly represents school districts, municipalities and small businesses in litigation and as general counsel, advising in the areas of contracts, labor disputes, shareholder disputes, wage and hour law, disability law, civil rights law and public board governance.

Cody is active in the firm's representation of school clients across the state, routinely handling administrative hearings ranging from employment matters to special education disputes. As a special education lawyer, Cody has the distinction of being one of only a handful of lawyers in Arkansas practicing in this specialized area.

Cody regularly litigates and provides legal training in Title VII of the Civil Rights Act, Title IX, Americans with Disabilities Act, Family Medical Leave Act, Individuals with Disabilities Education Act, Freedom of Information Act, Fair Labor Standards Act and Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act. Cody's in-depth understanding of these laws allows him to provide pre-litigation counsel and also a zealous defense of his clients if the matter proceeds to state or federal court.

Cody regularly practices in state and federal court and to date has tried numerous jury trials to verdict. Cody also handles state and federal appeals, and has appeared before the Eighth Circuit Court of Appeals for arguments on three occasions, prevailing for his client each time.

Cody is regularly called upon to provide legal training to various education groups, and to date has provided legal training to every school board in the State. Cody annually trains new superintendents and school board members, which gives him the unique perspective of understanding the needs of his clients.

In addition to a robust public sector practice, Cody represents private clients in business and employment matters. Cody has represented shareholders in disputes related to their businesses and private sector employees related to the termination of their duties.

Cody has twice been appointed as a Special Justice to the Arkansas Supreme Court; in 2011 by Governor Hutchinson (*Ark. Dep't of Fin. & Admin. v. Lewis*, 2011 Ark. 213) and again in 2023 by Governor Sanders (*Chatmon v. Payne*, CV-22-599).

When out of the office, Cody serves as the Mayor for the City of Cammack Village and is active with his family in their church, Fellowship Midtown. Cody has been married to Blake since 2011 and they have three young children; Parker, Whit and Posey.

## **AREAS OF PRACTICE**

- General civil litigation
- Employment law
- Education law
- School district litigation
- Civil rights litigation
- Business litigation
- Shareholder Disputes
- Personal injury

## **ADMITTED**

- Arkansas and U.S. District Court, Eastern and Western Divisions of Arkansas
- Eighth Circuit Court of Appeals
- United States Supreme Court

## **EDUCATION**

- University of Arkansas (Fayetteville) – J.D. 2012
- University of Arkansas (Fayetteville) – B.S. (Public Administration and Accounting) 2009
- White Hall High School—2005

## **MEMBER**

- President, Kappa Sigma Fraternity Alumni Corporation, UA Chapter
- Pulaski County Bar Association
- Arkansas Bar Association
- Hat Club of Little Rock

# Quattlebaum, Grooms & Tull

A PROFESSIONAL LIMITED LIABILITY COMPANY

111 Center Street  
Suite 1900  
Little Rock, Arkansas 72201  
(501) 379-1700

John E. Tull III  
jtull@qgtlaw.com

Direct Dial  
501-379-1705  
Facsimile  
501-379-1701

August 1, 2023

**Via Hand Delivery**

Ms. Patty Hector  
Saline Library, Library Director  
1800 Smithers Drive  
Benton, Arkansas 72015

RE: Request for Qualifications for Legal Services

Dear Ms. Hector:

Enclosed is our firm's Request for Qualifications for Legal Services. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

**QUATTLEBAUM, GROOMS & TULL PLLC**



John E. Tull III

JET/kaw  
Enclosure

**QUATTLEBAUM, GROOMS & TULL PLLC**  
**111 Center Street, Suite 1900**  
**Little Rock, Arkansas 72201**  
**(501) 379-1700**  
**(501) 379-1701 (Facsimile)**  
**www.qgtlaw.com**

**Saline County Library**  
**Requests for Qualifications for Legal Services**

INTRODUCTION

Quattlebaum, Grooms & Tull PLLC (“QG&T”) would be privileged to function in a role supporting Saline County Library (“the Library”) and its mission. With this in mind, we propose the following as conditions to being considered to perform work on the Library’s behalf:

- QG&T will designate a “managing counsel” (John E. Tull III, (501) 379-1705, jtull@qgtlaw.com) to be primarily responsible for responding to any inquiries from Saline County Library staff upon being retained to represent the Library, the managing counsel will provide up to one hour of non-compensable consultation time each month.
- QG&T will, within 120 days of being retained to represent the Library, perform a broad-based review of Saline County Library’s structure and organization, and present proposed near- and long-term action items for consideration. The review will be conducted by John Tull, who will commit up to 5 hours of non-compensable time to complete the project.

We believe offering these services will cultivate a productive relationship between the Library and QG&T. And, as need for legal services (beyond the *gratis* one-hour consultation time each month) arises, QG&T will be prepared to counsel Saline County Library on preferred courses of action, make recommendations on retaining counsel, and – when deemed appropriate by the Library – perform the necessary work.

We suggest that each particular project requiring legal counsel be handled, for purposes of staffing and billing, on an individual basis. QG&T and Saline County Library can decide cooperatively how best to staff each particular project; what the “deliverables” should be; and, what will be the fee structure (which would certainly include consideration of alternative billing arrangements such as flat fees, reduced billing rates, or “maximum” fees).

**QUATTLEBAUM, GROOMS & TULL PLLC**  
A Professional Limited Liability Company

FIRM PROFILE

Quattlebaum, Grooms & Tull PLLC provides a client-centered practice aimed at furnishing top-quality legal services in a highly efficient and responsible manner. We have counseled numerous individuals and entrepreneurs and served as regional, general, and special counsel to many domestic and international corporations, including Fortune 500 corporations, entrepreneurial companies, and governmental entities. Our attorneys provide a broad range of operational-oriented services and can meet virtually any transactional, regulatory, litigation, or dispute-resolution need. Our goal is to provide legal expertise with honesty, integrity, and respect to all clients, always keeping our client's best interests in the forefront.

From inception, our law firm has provided legal advice to clients throughout Arkansas with a growing regional presence in surrounding states. Our clients look to us for sound counsel, guidance, and dependable advice, which has led to many long-term client relationships founded on mutual trust and respect. The following is a brief description of the firm's approach to serving the Saline County Library, select personal resumes, and a general description of the firm's experience which might be of interest to Saline County Library.

**QUATTLEBAUM, GROOMS & TULL PLLC**

TEAM APPROACH

The firm will utilize as appropriate a select team of attorneys and staff to ensure Saline County Library receives outstanding service. While one attorney, John E. Tull III, will be responsible for overseeing transactions and communicating with Saline County Library, John E. Tull III will use the firm's attorneys, paralegals and staff to efficiently and effectively serve Saline County Library and meet its legal needs.

John E. Tull III will be primarily responsible, as the designated “managing counsel,” for working with Saline County Library to identify any needs for legal services, properly staff legal projects, and complete legal work in a timely manner, within a developed scope and budget. Mr. Tull is sensitive to the demands on public employees and understands well the constituents they serve: their local citizenry. In addition to his work representing private individuals and organizations, Mr. Tull considers his efforts for and on behalf of public entities among his most rewarding professional experiences. He will devote ample time to understanding the activities and needs of Saline County Library, and to providing Saline County Library legal guidance of the highest standards.

In addition to Mr. Tull, the team of attorneys available, as appropriate, to work with Saline County Library will include Brandon Cate, [bcate@qgtlaw.com](mailto:bcate@qgtlaw.com), (479) 444-5205; Vincent Chadick, [vchadick@qgtlaw.com](mailto:vchadick@qgtlaw.com), (479) 444-5208; Glenn Larkin, [glarkin@qgtlaw.com](mailto:glarkin@qgtlaw.com), (501) 379-1726; and Andrew Dixon, [adixon@qgtlaw.com](mailto:adixon@qgtlaw.com), (479) 444-5216. The firm’s team approach will allow Saline County Library to have access to the firm’s vast experience in real estate and contract matters, and ensure that Saline County Library’s goals are pursued by outstanding attorneys providing exceptional service.

Several of our attorneys, including Brandon Cate, Vincent Chadick, Tim Grooms, Jeb Joyce, and Cliff McKinney, have extensive experience in representing governmental organizations. Mr. McKinney holds the degree of Master of Public Administration from the University of Arkansas (2002) and is a member of the American Society for Public Administration and the Arkansas Society for Public Administration. We have represented the Pulaski County Multi-Purpose Civic Center Facilities Board (Verizon Arena), Pulaski County, the City of Little Rock, the City of Sherwood, the Arkansas Soil and Water Conservation Commission, the Arkansas Contractor Licensing Board, the Arkansas Workers’ Compensation Commission and other governmental entities including improvement districts. We have handled a variety of projects for governmental entities including assisting in litigation matters and drafting various ordinances and regulations. Our attorneys have also represented clients before numerous regulatory entities.



QUATTLEBAUM, GROOMS & TULL PLLC

|| OUR FIRM ▾

|| ATTORNEYS

|| PRACTICE

|| AWARDS

|| NEWS

|| RESULTS

|| PUBLICATIONS



# About Us

Quattlebaum, Grooms & Tull PLLC, a regional law firm with offices in Little Rock and Northwest Arkansas, provides a full range of legal services to individuals and business organizations of all forms and sizes, including sole proprietorships, partnerships, limited liability companies, and corporations. Our clients include Fortune 500 companies, regional businesses, small entities, governmental bodies, and individuals. Our practice encompasses a wide variety of transactions, litigation, regulatory advice, and estate planning.

Since its founding in July 2000, the firm has grown from its original five (5) lawyers to its current complement of thirty-eight (38) lawyers and twelve (12) paralegals, making it one of the larger firms in the state.

Experienced, highly-talented lawyers have joined the firm from other firms in the area and from

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We believe the rapid growth of the firm is a reflection of the ever-expanding list of well-satisfied clients. We recognize that our continued growth and success depends on exceeding the expectations of our clients by providing exceptional service and achieving extraordinary results.

Our goal is to provide superior representation to our clients, regardless whether they are large corporations, small businesses, or individuals and whether they are plaintiffs or defendants. This goal is shared by every lawyer in our firm – from the most junior associates to the most senior partners. This mission includes our commitment to providing service to our clients in an efficient, responsible and professional manner. Our dedication to providing superior representation has led to long-term client relationships founded on mutual trust and respect.

Our philosophy on handling litigation is simple: we use motion practice to frame the issues in the manner most advantageous to our client, and we prepare the case for trial. We are trial lawyers. We have found that the best results for our clients are achieved by approaching cases with the attitude that they will go to trial. Hence, we strive to develop the case fully, to retain the best experts, and to have absolute control over the documentary evidence. Further, we strive to use every technological advantage reasonably available to organize and present the evidence in a way that credibly and understandably conveys our themes and messages to the jury. This level of preparation provides the most favorable results for our clients at trial and, when appropriate, in settlement negotiations.

We are fortunate to represent banks, entities and real estate developers in a myriad of transactional and regulatory matters. Conscious of the time and expense constraints attendant with every matter, we strive to provide timely and efficient advice to our clients who are engaged in business transactions. In this regard we strive to develop a complete knowledge of their business in order to offer comprehensive business counseling and transactional services. Our extensive experience before administrative agencies and regulators allows us to provide informed and tested guidance to clients involved in regulated activities and business endeavors. We are committed to providing our full attention to both complex transactions and those which are more routine in nature – understanding the importance of each to our clients.

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### *Recent Results*

**Successful Verdict In Eminent Domain Action After Two-Day Jury Trial**

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**Summary Judgment Granted In Employment Matter**

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**Firm Wins Reversal of Default Judgment**

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### *Publications*

**Adjustable Interest Rate (LIBOR) Act: Key Information For Lenders**

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**A Report From The 2021 National Conference of Commissioners On Uniform State Laws**

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**Arkansas's New LLC Act: Practical Steps for Lenders**

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### *Contact Us*

#### **Little Rock, Arkansas Office**

111 Center Street, Suite 1900  
Little Rock, AR 72201  
Voice: (501) 379-1700  
Facsimile: (501) 379-1701

#### **Northwest Arkansas Office**

4100 Corporate Center Drive,  
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**JOHN E. TULL III**  
**Managing Member**  
Quattlebaum, Grooms & Tull PLLC  
111 Center Street, Suite 1900  
Little Rock, Arkansas 72201  
501.379.1705 Telephone  
501.379.1701 Facsimile  
[jtull@QGTLLAW.com](mailto:jtull@QGTLLAW.com)

*Newspaper Law, Products Liability, Complex Commercial Litigation*

Mr. Tull is a founding member of Quattlebaum, Grooms & Tull PLLC. In over 100 jury trials, Mr. Tull has served as lead counsel on behalf of large and small businesses and individuals in cases involving business torts, breach of contract, products liability, toxic torts, environmental litigation, securities fraud, franchise disputes, trade secrets, personal injury, First Amendment, and other matters. Mr. Tull serves as general counsel for the Arkansas Press Association and instituted the Libel Hotline for the Association. Mr. Tull is the recipient of the Distinguished Service Award (2006) and the Freedom of Information Award (2018) from the Arkansas Press Association. In 2023, he was appointed to the Arkansas Freedom of Information Act Review Working Group by Arkansas Attorney General Tim Griffin. Upon graduation from Vanderbilt University in 1980, he served as a legislative aide to former United States Senator David Pryor.

Mr. Tull has been named one of the leading business litigation lawyers in Arkansas by *Chambers USA's Guide to America's Leading Lawyers for Business* since 2004 and *Super Lawyers* since 2006. He is listed in *The Best Lawyers in America®* in the areas of Bet-the-Company Litigation, Commercial Litigation, First Amendment Law, Litigation – Banking & Finance, Litigation – First Amendment, Mass Tort Litigation/Class Actions – Defendants, Media Law, Personal Injury Litigation – Defendants, Product Liability Litigation – Defendants, Product Liability Litigation – Plaintiffs, and was named Best Lawyers' 2023 and 2012 Little Rock Litigation – Banking & Finance Lawyer of the Year, 2021 Little Rock Bet-the-Company Litigation Lawyer of the Year, 2017 Little Rock Product Liability Litigation – Plaintiffs Law Lawyer of the Year, and Little Rock First Amendment Law Lawyer of the Year in 2014, 2016, 2020, and 2022. He was selected for the inaugural Lawdragon 500 Leading Litigators in America guide in 2022. Mr. Tull is recognized as one of the Top 50 Super Lawyers in Arkansas by *Super Lawyers* and listed as a Local Litigation Star for Arkansas in *Benchmark Litigation*. He is rated AV Preeminent® by Martindale-Hubbell. Mr. Tull is a Fellow of the International Academy of Trial Lawyers and the American College of Trial Lawyers.

Some of the cases in which Mr. Tull has been involved in recent years include:

### **Business Litigation**

The successful defense of a company against securities and fraud allegations in a jury trial that lasted ten weeks.

The successful defense of a major service provider in a breach of contract and wrongful discharge action.

The prosecution of an interference with contractual relations and violation of Deceptive Trade Practices Act action for a service provider. A jury trial resulted in a judgment for compensatory and punitive damages in favor of this client.

The defense of a manufacturer in breach of contract and promissory estoppel claims. Trials resulted in two defense verdicts.

The defense of several banks in lender liability actions.

The representation of individuals and corporations in a wide variety of business litigation matters, including antitrust, franchise act violations, deceptive trade practices, and securities fraud.

### **First Amendment**

The defense of a computer company in a libel and conspiracy case which resulted in a defense verdict after a trial of four and a half weeks.

The defense of newspapers in several cases, including the publication of wrong photographs. Four of these went to trial, with three defense verdicts and one modest recovery.

The defense of numerous libel and slander cases for national and local television networks, newspapers, and magazines.

### **Products Liability**

The defense of manufacturers of welding consumables in numerous actions involving claims of neurological injury from exposure to welding fumes.

The defense of major herbicide manufacturers in a number of cases including claims of personal injury and crop damage resulting from allegedly excessive drift propensity of a herbicide.

The defense of numerous agricultural aviation services including claims of negligence and breach of warranty. In addition to handling civil cases, Mr. Tull has represented numerous agricultural aviators and other parties before the Arkansas State Plant Board.

The defense of numerous industrial and agricultural equipment manufacturers and suppliers in cases involving economic loss or traumatic injuries.

### **Other**

The representation of a class of investors against an insurance company, which resulted in a rescission of their original investment for the investors.

The representation of individuals and businesses who have sustained personal injuries and business damages.

The representation, with Mr. Quattlebaum of the firm, of an individual and his business in a lender liability action resulting in a verdict in excess of \$10 million.

The representation of companies in cases alleging negligence and product shifts in 18-wheelers resulting in fatal accidents.

### **Education**

University of Arkansas School of Law (J.D., with high honors, 1984)

Vanderbilt University (B.A., 1980)

### **Associations and Affiliations**

Fellow, American College of Trial Lawyers; Fellow, International Academy of Trial Lawyers; Member, American Board of Trial Advocates, International Association of Defense Counsel, Arkansas Association of Defense Counsel, Defense Research Institute, Libel Defense Resource Center, and Federal Practice Committee, Eastern District of Arkansas; Master, William R. Overton Inn of Court; Member, American Bar Association, Arkansas Bar Association, and Pulaski County Bar Association

### **Charitable Organizations**

St. Mark's Episcopal Church, Vestry and Search Committee



**Brandon B. Cate**  
**Managing Member**

*Commercial Litigation, ERISA Litigation, Employment Litigation, Class Action Defense, Mortgage Servicing Litigation, Real Estate Litigation, Media Law, Eminent Domain, Appeals*

Mr. Cate is a litigation attorney in the firm's Northwest Arkansas office. His practice focuses on commercial litigation, including litigation concerning ERISA, employment, mortgage servicing, real estate, media law, eminent domain, products liability, and class action defense. His experience includes representing defendants in putative class actions filed in Arkansas and Missouri regarding Internet practices, defending a national mortgage servicer in a putative class action concerning mortgage practices, and defending a publicly traded company in a putative class action against claims of employment discrimination. He has defended mortgage servicers in litigation filed in Arkansas, Missouri, Minnesota, Tennessee, Kansas, and Mississippi. He regularly represents insurance companies in ERISA-benefits and other group-benefits litigation in Arkansas and Tennessee courts. He also represented a natural gas pipeline company in successfully securing through eminent domain a right of way covering the distance of one-half of the State of Arkansas. Mr. Cate is listed in *The Best Lawyers in America*® in the areas of Commercial Litigation, Eminent Domain and Condemnation Law, Employee Benefits (ERISA) Law, Litigation - ERISA, and Litigation - Labor & Employment, and was named the 2022 Fayetteville "Lawyer of the Year" for Litigation - Labor and Employment. He has been recognized as a Mid-South Rising Star in the area of Employee Benefits by *Super Lawyers*, and named to the 2016 Under 40 Hot List, a Future Star in Litigation, and a Labor & Employment Star - South by *Benchmark Litigation*. He is rated AV Preeminent® by Martindale-Hubbell.

Mr. Cate advises media and government entities on defamation, First Amendment, and Freedom of Information Act issues. His recent trial work includes obtaining a temporary injunction blocking the enforcement of Act 372 while representing a coalition of a dozen libraries throughout the State. His trial work also includes successfully representing a newspaper and its reporter in obtaining a 911 recording and other documents pursuant to the Arkansas Freedom of Information Act. He also successfully defended at trial an Arkansas state agency in a lawsuit that sought through the Arkansas Freedom of Information Act the identity of a confidential criminal informant.

His trial work also includes obtaining a temporary injunction blocking the enforcement of Act 372 while representing a coalition of a dozen libraries.

Mr. Cate's recent trial work also includes successfully obtaining a declaratory judgment in favor of landowners whose neighbor sought to take by adverse possession 27 acres of land outside of Harrison. And Mr. Cate successfully defended at trial two Fayetteville homeowners who had been sued for breach of a real-estate agreement.

Mr. Cate's recent work also includes representation of a national company in obtaining summary judgment on claims of employment discrimination and retaliation in the company's Rogers warehouse.

Mr. Cate's appeal work includes the following published decisions:

- *Moore v. Apple Central, LLC*, 893 F.3d 579 (8th Cir. 2018)
- *County of Ramsey v. MERSCORP Holdings, Inc. et al.*, 776 F.3d 947 (8th Cir. 2014)
- *Brown v. Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc. et al.*, 738 F.3d 926 (8th Cir. 2013)
- *Daigle v. Hartford Life & Accident Ins. Co.*, 452 Fed Appx. 689 (8th Cir. 2011)
- *Booth v. Riverside Marine Remanufacturers, Inc.*, 2010 Ark. App. 366, 376 S.W.3d 450 (2010)

Prior to joining Quattlebaum, Grooms & Tull PLLC in 2003, Mr. Cate served as a law clerk to the Honorable G. Thomas Eisele of the United States District Court for the Eastern District of Arkansas.

Mr. Cate graduated *summa cum laude* from the University of Arkansas School of Law, where he finished second in his class and served as Editor in Chief of the *Arkansas Law Review*. Prior to law school, he graduated *cum laude* from Vanderbilt University with a Bachelor of Arts in political science. While attending Vanderbilt, Mr. Cate interned and later worked part-time for the Tennessee General Assembly's Senate Judiciary Committee, where he drafted and assessed legislation.

A native of Fayetteville, Arkansas, Mr. Cate maintains an amateur archive of University of Arkansas football and basketball television broadcasts and films. His collection dates to 1940, and he contributed footage to the Arkansas Razorback Sports Network's documentary *22 Straight: 1963-65*.

### **Admissions**

State of Arkansas, State of Tennessee, United States Court of Appeals for the Sixth and Eighth Circuits, United States District Courts for the Eastern and Western Districts of Arkansas, United States District Courts for the Eastern, Middle, and Western Districts of Tennessee

## **Education**

University of Arkansas School of Law (J.D., *summa cum laude*, 2001)

Editor in Chief, *Arkansas Law Review*, 2000-01

Member, School of Law Board of Advocates, 2000-01

First Place, School of Law Client Counseling Competition, 1999

Vanderbilt University (B.A., *cum laude*, 1998)

## **Associations and Affiliations**

Sustaining Fellow, Arkansas Bar Foundation; Member, Defense Research Institute; Member, Arkansas Association of Defense Counsel; Member, American Bar Association, Arkansas Bar Association, and Washington County Bar Association; Member, W. B. Putman Inn of Court

## **Publications**

*Saforo & Associates, Inc. v. Porocel Corp.: The Failure of the Uniform Trade Secrets Act to Clarify the Doubtful and Confused Status of Common Law Trade Secret Principles*, 53 Ark. L. Rev. 687 (2000).

Brandon B. Cate & Lindsey C. Pesek, *Opinion In Error: FOI Interpretation Incorrect*, Arkansas Democrat-Gazette, Dec. 11, 2015, at B7.

Brandon Cate, *Restaurants, Guns & Signs*, Northwest Arkansas Business Journal (Apr. 2, 2018).

## **Community Activities**

Mr. Cate serves on the Board of Directors of The Fayetteville Public Education Foundation, Inc., an organization that provides students in Fayetteville with extraordinary educational opportunities by fostering strategic partnerships and invests in innovative programs championed by educators. Mr. Cate and his spouse are also members of the Foundation's campaign steering committee. Mr. Cate also serves as the Secretary of the Board of Directors for Arkansas Law Review, Inc., the nonprofit corporation that publishes the *Arkansas Law Review*. Mr. Cate is also a member of the University of Arkansas School of Law Dean's Circle.





**VINCENT O. CHADICK**  
**Of Counsel**

Quattlebaum, Grooms & Tull PLLC  
4100 Corporate Center Drive, Suite 310  
Springdale, Arkansas 72762  
479.444.5208 Telephone  
479.444.6647 Facsimile  
[vchadick@QGTLAW.com](mailto:vchadick@QGTLAW.com)

*Commercial Litigation*

Vince Chadick maintains a commercial law practice, representing corporate, public, and individual clients in matters of litigation and regulatory compliance. Mr. Chadick has appeared before state and federal courts, and administrative agencies, in at least six states and the District of Columbia; and has handled in excess of 50 trials (including more than 20 jury trials). He has also argued before the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Eighth Circuit and the Arkansas Supreme Court. Over the past two decades, Mr. Chadick has litigated a range of matters, from single-plaintiff personal injury to complex consumer class actions; local governmental tax disputes to multinational arbitration; and, business piracy to toxic tort. He is a member of the American Board of Trial Advocates and is listed with *The Best Lawyers in America*® in the areas of Commercial Litigation and Agriculture Law and with *Super Lawyers* in Business/Corporate.

Mr. Chadick also provides counsel to clients, including agribusinesses, on a variety of prospective issues beyond the context of litigation, including operational, production, and transportation matters implicating federal and state statutes and regulations, in particular the PSA and PACA.

Mr. Chadick obtained his J.D. from the University of Arkansas School of Law in 1993. He also has a Master of Laws degree from the University of Arkansas School of Law Graduate Program. Mr. Chadick received an A.B. from Georgetown University in 1991.

Mr. Chadick is licensed to practice law in Arkansas and Oklahoma. He is a member (and past president) of the Board of Directors of the Eighth Circuit Bar Association and formerly served two terms on the Arkansas Civil Practice Committee by appointment of the Supreme Court of Arkansas. In complement to his private law practice, Mr. Chadick has acted as an adjunct lecturer at the University of Arkansas School of Law.



**ANDREW S. DIXON**

**Associate**

Quattlebaum, Grooms & Tull PLLC  
4100 Corporate Center Drive, Suite 310  
Springdale, Arkansas 72762  
479.444.5216 Telephone  
479.444.6647 Facsimile  
[adixon@QGT LAW.com](mailto:adixon@QGT LAW.com)

*Litigation*

Mr. Dixon is a litigation attorney with Quattlebaum, Grooms & Tull PLLC.

Born and raised in Russellville, Arkansas, Mr. Dixon graduated *magna cum laude* from the University of Arkansas School of Law, where he served as an Articles Editor for the *Arkansas Law Review* and as a faculty research assistant. He was awarded the M. Jeff Starling Award for excellence in the study of labor and employment law. During law school, Mr. Dixon served on the executive board of the school's Business Law Society, participated in the law school's litigation clinic, and worked on pro bono projects to provide estate planning services in rural Arkansas.

Following law school, Mr. Dixon served as a law clerk to the Honorable Robert T. Dawson, United States District Court for the Western District of Arkansas. Mr. Dixon also assisted Judge Dawson with his work on the United States Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit, where Judge Dawson sat by designation.

In 2016, Mr. Dixon obtained a Bachelor of Arts from the University of Arkansas, where he graduated with high honors and became a member of Phi Beta Kappa.

Mr. Dixon was licensed to practice law in Arkansas in 2019.

**Admissions**

State of Arkansas  
United States District Courts for the Eastern and Western Districts of Arkansas  
United States Court of Appeals for the Eighth Circuit

**Memberships**

Arkansas Bar Association  
Washington County Bar Association

**Publications**

*Marijuana Business Attorneys and the Professional Deference Standard, 71 Ark. L. Rev. 789 (2019).*



**GLENN V. LARKIN**

**Associate**

Quattlebaum, Grooms & Tull PLLC  
111 Center Street, Suite 1900  
Little Rock, Arkansas 72201  
501.379.1726 Telephone  
501.379.1701 Facsimile  
[glarkin@QGTLLAW.com](mailto:glarkin@QGTLLAW.com)

*Litigation*

Mr. Larkin is a litigation attorney with Quattlebaum, Grooms & Tull PLLC.

Mr. Larkin practiced at the firm for a year following law school. Mr. Larkin then served as a law clerk to the Honorable Lee P. Rudofksy of the United States District Court for the Eastern District of Arkansas before returning to the firm.

Mr. Larkin received his J.D., *summa cum laude*, from the University of Arkansas at Little Rock School of Law where he was Articles Editor of the *University of Arkansas at Little Rock Law Review* and, as the top-ranked student in his law school class, received twelve top paper awards. He graduated with a Bachelor of Arts in History from the University of South Carolina-Upstate.

**Education**

University of Arkansas at Little Rock School of Law (J.D., *summa cum laude*, 2020)  
University of South Carolina-Upstate (B.A. 2015)

**Admissions**

State of Arkansas  
United States District Courts for the Eastern and Western Districts of Arkansas  
United States Court of Appeals for the Eighth Circuit  
United States Court of Federal Claims

**Publications**

*A Tale of Two Shootings: Should a Bivens Remedy Be Available When CBP Agents Shoot and Kill Victims on the Mexican Side of the Border?* 42 U. Ark. Little Rock L. Rev. 171 (2019).

**Professional Associations**

Arkansas Bar Association

**Pulaski County Bar Association**



**ROSE LAW FIRM**

RESPONSE TO REQUEST FOR QUALIFICATIONS FOR LEGAL SERVICES

2023-07-17

FOR

SALINE COUNTY PUBLIC LIBRARY

**August 2, 2023**

"The responsiveness and thoroughness of the Rose Firm attorneys reinforces the reputation the Rose Firm enjoys. Its culture and standards of practice should be emulated by all."

-Chambers USA

RESPONSE REQUIREMENTS

**1. Name, address, telephone number and web address of the firm.**

Rose Law Firm is located at 120 E. Fourth St. in Little Rock, Arkansas and our phone number is 501.375.9131. Our website address is <https://www.roselawfirm.com/>.

**2. Provide the telephone number and email address of the primary contact person.**

Primary Contact Information:

Michael K. Goswami

[mgoswami@roselawfirm.com](mailto:mgoswami@roselawfirm.com)

**3. Name, address and contact information for each associated firm if any.**

Rose Law Firm affirms that no additional firms will take part in the work outlined in the scope of services.

**4. Resumes of key personnel from each firm who would be assigned to this project. (Only key personnel who will work directly on this project shall be included in the response.) Clearly identify who will be your team leader, and what role of each participating individual will be relative to this project.**

Primary Attorney: Michael K. Goswami

Supporting Attorneys: Nicole Gore, Jim Fowler, Austin Reed, Ryan Smith, Nancy Smith.

**Resumes for all attorneys are attached.**

**5. Provide your specific experience with providing review and recommendations to governmental agencies or boards, as well as expertise associated with Constitutional Law, including the First Amendment.**

- Defeated a free speech violation claim lodged against state agency in the Western District of Arkansas under the First and Fourteenth Amendments. The claim involved a preacher who was denied access to a public sidewalk in front of the DMV in Fayetteville. Successfully established the prohibition was in accordance with US Supreme Court



ROSE LAW FIRM

precedent and prevailed on summary judgment. 5:15-cv-05213-TLB, *Brown v. Arkansas Department of Finance and Administration et al.*

- Defended against religious liberty and due process claims under First and Fourteenth Amendments, as well as religious liberty statutes under Arkansas and federal law. The claim involved a Muslim inmate who claimed he was denied halal meals in violation of his religious liberties as guaranteed under federal and state law. 5:15-cv-00130-KGB, *Muhammad v. Mayfield et al.*
- Successfully defended the Arkansas State Constitution as amici curiae in the Arkansas Supreme Court on matters of state constitution interpretation.
- Successfully defended Arkansas statute involving interplay between federal and state law in the Arkansas Supreme Court. CV-15-616, *BAPTIST HEALTH SYSTEMS V LESLIE RUTLEDGE, A. G.*
- Successfully defended the State of Arkansas in federal and state courts on numerous occasions on matters involving state and federal laws, including successfully defending the state on oral argument in the U.S. Court of Appeals for Eighth Circuit. 15-1472, *Jerry Henry v. Danny Burl, et al.*





**Rose Law Firm Attorney Resumes**

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**[SEE ATTACHED]**

# Jim Fowler

Of Counsel

501-377-0342

[jfowler@roselawfirm.com](mailto:jfowler@roselawfirm.com)



Jim began his career as a municipal securities lawyer at Rose Law Firm in 1978. After employment in various sectors of the municipal securities industry, Jim returned to the firm to lead its public finance and economic development practice. In addition to serving as bond counsel, underwriter's counsel, trustee counsel, disclosure counsel and issuer's counsel, Jim has been engaged by Arkansas state and local governmental entities in matters relating to public finance, economic development, governmental incentives, disaster relief, tax controversies and governmental relations.

Jim's clients have included the Arkansas Development Finance Authority, the Arkansas Treasurer of State and municipalities, counties, public facilities boards, improvement districts, public development corporations, airports, educational institutions, health care institutions and other public instrumentalities and agencies.

Jim has served as lead bond counsel on tax, assessment and revenue backed bond issues for state and local issuers throughout Arkansas. He has also served as lead bond counsel for housing, healthcare, higher education, qualified 501(c)(3) and industrial development bonds. Jim has assisted firm clients and governmental entities with Federal, state and local economic development incentives including industrial development bonds, property tax and other tax incentives, including the Arkansas Act 9/PILOT arrangements.

Jim has practiced extensively in the area of affordable housing. He has delivered nationally recognized opinions for multifamily housing bonds in Arkansas and other states. Additionally, he has represented affordable housing industry participants in various project phases including development, financing, transfer, bond modifications and bankruptcy. Jim's practice has exposed him to the current bond/4% tax credit structures being used in the affordable housing industry today.

Jim's governmental law practice has included drafting legislation, drafting state agency rules and regulations and lobbying and testifying before the Arkansas General Assembly. Jim has participated in litigation involving state and local governments. Recently, Jim was lead counsel in a successful brief and oral argument before the Arkansas Court of Appeals involving a local tax remittance controversy between local Arkansas governments and the Treasurer of State.

## EXPERIENCE

- More than 40 years' experience in the municipal securities industry (bond lawyer, investment banker, municipal advisor, municipal securities principal)
- Former bank director



**SERVICES**

Public Finance & Economic Development  
Tax  
Tax Controversy

**EDUCATION**

- Hendrix College, B.A.
- University of Arkansas School of Law, Juris Doctor
- Southern Methodist University, LLM

**HONORS**

- Silver Beaver Award (Quapaw Area Council, Boy Scouts of America)
- James E. West Fellow (Boy Scouts of America)
- Outstanding Eagle Scout Award-National Eagle Scout Association

**AFFILIATIONS**

- National Association of Bond Lawyers
- Arkansas Bar Association
- Pulaski County Bar Association
- Quapaw Area Council, Boy Scouts of America, Council President

# Nicole Gore

Associate

501-377-0370

ngore@roselawfirm.com



Nicole focuses her practice primarily on state, local, individual and corporate taxation as well as various tax backed and revenue bond issues. In regards to her tax practice, she advises clients on an array of complex federal and state tax issues, such as those regarding income, gift, sales and estate tax.

Additionally, Nicole is involved in matters when the Rose Law Firm is engaged as bond counsel and has worked with the Arkansas Development Finance Authority and various municipalities, public facilities boards, improvement districts, educational institutions, and other public instrumentalities.

Nicole also has experience working on estate planning and general corporate matters, such as financing transactions, corporate structure and governance, reorganizations and the drafting of various types of commercial contracts.

## Publication

Nicole Soulsby, *Strength in Numbers: South Dakota v. Wayfair, Inc. and the Ripple Effect Occurring in State Legislatures to Circumvent the Quill Corp Physical Presence Test for Use Taxation*, 11 Charleston L. Rev. 583 (2017).

## EXPERIENCE

- Prepared both state and federal post-disaster funding applications
- Assisted in funding efforts involving FEMA, the Arkansas Department of Emergency Management and the Arkansas Natural Resources Commission
- Advise corporate clients regarding sales and use tax and the economic nexus standard
- Assist with tax controversies involving both the Internal Revenue Service and the Arkansas Department of Finance and Administration
- Provide municipal finance and bond assistance to cities as officials facilitate various economic development projects, including those involving tax and other incentives, including the Arkansas Act 9/PILOT arrangements
- Presented a multi-family housing bond issue to the Arkansas Development Finance Authority
- Advise clients on entity selection and formation, commercial and contract issues, reorganizations and general business issues
- Prepare an array of corporate documents, such as organizational documents, employment agreements and lease and purchase agreements
- Draft wills, revocable trusts and powers of attorney for individuals and families across the state



## **EDUCATION**

- Georgetown University School of Law, Executive LL.M. in Taxation – 2019  
Certificate in State and Local Taxation  
Dean's List
- Charleston School of Law, Juris Doctor (Summa Cum Laude) – 2018  
Presidential Honors Recipient  
Dean's List  
Student Works Editor, Charleston Law Review  
Vice President, Student Bar Association  
Legal Research & Writing Senior Fellow  
Associate Justice of External Competitions, Charleston Moot Court Board  
Best Oral Advocate, Charleston Moot Court Board  
Best Brief Award, Charleston Moot Court Board Internal Competition  
National Moot Court Competition, Region 5 Champion  
Medical University of South Carolina Presidential Scholar  
James L. Petigru Inn of Court Student Member  
Forensic Club Member  
CALI Awards: Evidence and Civil Procedure
- University of Arkansas, Bachelor of Science – 2015

## **SERVICES**

Corporate & Transactional  
Public Finance & Economic Development  
Real Estate  
State & Local Taxes  
Tax  
Tax Controversy  
Trusts & Estates



# Michael Goswami

Member

501-377-0313

[mgoswami@roselawfirm.com](mailto:mgoswami@roselawfirm.com)



Michael focuses his practice on producing creative and effective solutions for his business-oriented clients. His experience includes counseling on a wide range of matters:

- Corporate governance and business planning
- Advising on real estate purchases
- Sales and related transactions
- Negotiating commercial leases
- Navigating business disputes
- Consulting on mergers and acquisitions
- Conducting negotiations on transactional matters and issues of liability
- Counseling on contractual relations
- Lobbying local and state governing bodies
- Guiding his clients through complex regulatory environments including matters related to alcohol licenses, medical marijuana matters, and regulated firearms

Since the passage of the Arkansas Medical Marijuana Amendment of 2016, he has become one of the state's top attorneys to advise participants in the state's medical marijuana industry.

Prior to law school, Michael interned with the San Francisco District Attorney's Office in the Gang Task Force Unit. During law school, he worked with various prominent firms in Arkansas as a law clerk. He served as a judicial extern for the Honorable Ben T. Barry in the U.S. Bankruptcy Court for the Western District of Arkansas and as a legislative extern for Congressman Steve Womack (AR-3). He was also a mentor to younger students and served on the Editorial Board of the Arkansas Law Review.

After law school, Michael continued his education by becoming a Master in Business Administration. While at the Sam M. Walton Graduate School of Business, Michael was appointed as a member of the MBA Curriculum Redesign Committee.

Michael has shown a clear dedication to ethics, serving as an elected representative to the Student Conduct Council at the University of Arkansas School of Law, an appointed member of the Arkansas Law Review Disciplinary Committee, and as an appointed member of the University of Arkansas All-University Academic Integrity Board.

## Publications

The Shifting Landscape of Captive Insurance Arrangements — 35 Inside (NY State Bar. Assoc.) 33 (Spr./Sum. 2017)

Uniform Voidable Transactions Act as Adopted in Arkansas — Rose Law Firm Website (May 2017), available at <http://www.roselawfirm.com/2017/05/uniform-voidable-transactions-act-as-adopted-in-arkansas/>

Banking in the Medical Marijuana Industry is a Quagmire of Opportunity — Rose Law Firm Website (May 2017), available at <http://www.roselawfirm.com/2017/05/banking-in-the-medical-marijuana-industry-is-a-quagmire-of-opportunity/>

Guns or Ganja: Pick One and Only One — 52 Ark. Lawyer 24 (Spr. 2017), available at [https://issuu.com/arkansas\\_bar\\_association/docs/the\\_arkansas\\_lawyer\\_spring\\_2017issu/26](https://issuu.com/arkansas_bar_association/docs/the_arkansas_lawyer_spring_2017issu/26)



## **SERVICES**

Business Formation & Governance  
Commercial Finance  
Corporate & Transactional  
Government Relations  
Medical Marijuana  
Mergers & Acquisitions  
Real Estate  
Regulatory & Compliance  
Securities  
State & Local Taxes  
Tax  
Tax Controversy

## **EDUCATION**

- University of Arkansas Walton Graduate School of Business, Master of Business Administration (Finance) – 2016
- All-University Academic Integrity Board, Graduate Student Representative
- MBA Curriculum Rebuilding Committee, Member
- University of Arkansas School of Law, Juris Doctor, Summa Cum Laude – 2015
- Note and Comment Editor, Arkansas Law Review
- Student Conduct Council, Elected Representative
- Arkansas Law Review Disciplinary Committee, Appointed Member
- University of Arkansas Sam M. Walton College of Business, Bachelor of Science in Business Administration (Management) – 2012
- University of Arkansas Chancellor's List
- Sam M. Walton College of Business Dean's List

## **EXPERIENCE**

- Serving as external corporate counsel to institutional clients on real estate matters
- Advising on entity structuring and transactions in the medical marijuana industry
- Serving as corporate counsel to in-state and out-of-state institutional medical marijuana clients
- Advising on, drafting for and performing due diligence in relation to real estate leasing, purchase and sale transactions up to \$45 million
- Advising on, drafting for and performing due diligence in relation to lending transactions up to \$750 million
- Advising on matters of real property title, including drafting, negotiating and clearing title encumbrances
- Representing businesses in external business disputes with vendors, suppliers and clients
- Advising on and conducting negotiations for internal entity disputes between equity-holders
- Advising on regulatory issues on the \$100 million sale of a business
- Representing clients before the Arkansas General Assembly to pass industry-specific legislation
- Representing clients before local regulatory bodies such as city councils, quorum court and planning commissions
- Advising on estate planning issues, including the ownership and transfer of National Firearms Act items
- Negotiating employment agreements and arrangements for the benefit of licensed professionals

## **HONORS**

- Best Lawyers in America to Watch – Corporate Law, Land Use & Zoning Law, Real Estate Law (2020)
- Super Lawyers Rising Star (2018 – 2020)
- Graduate of Leadership Arkansas Class XIII (2019)
- The New Influential, Arkansas Business 20 in their 20's (2018)

## **AFFILIATIONS**

- Arkansas Bar Association
- Pulaski County Bar Association



## Austin C. Reed

Associate

501-377-0427

areed@roselawfirm.com



Austin Reed is a litigator who focuses his practice on helping clients resolve business, contract and real estate disputes. Austin has considerable experience representing financial institutions in litigation. He also advises clients with regard to agricultural and recreational land use matters. Austin graduated summa cum laude from the University of Arkansas at Little Rock William H. Bowen School of Law. While earning his J.D., Austin was a teaching assistant in Research, Writing and Analysis I and II and served as an articles editor for the University of Arkansas at Little Rock Law Review.

### SERVICES

Probate & Trust Litigation

Financial Services

Creditors' Rights and Bankruptcy

Commercial/Business Litigation

Trusts & Estates

Litigation & Dispute Resolution

### EDUCATION

- University of Arkansas Bowen School of Law, Juris Doctor (Summa Cum Laude), 2021
- Arkansas State University, Bachelor of Science in Finance, 2018

### ADMISSIONS

Arkansas





# Nancy Smith

Associate

501-377-0470

nsmith@roselawfirm.com



Nancy serves as an associate for the firm's litigation practice group. She focuses her practice on general litigation with an emphasis on labor and employment law. In addition to defending employment litigation and government agency investigations, her practice includes providing advice on employment law compliance and drafting employer-specific documents. Nancy also has experience handling breach of contract disputes, business torts, family law and general commercial litigation matters.

Prior to joining the Rose Law Firm, Nancy served as a judicial extern for the Honorable Courtney Hudson at the Arkansas Supreme Court and as a legislative extern for Senator John Boozman in Washington, D.C. She also spent time as a law clerk for law firms in Arkansas and as a litigation intern for the Tyson Foods Law Department. In her free time, Nancy enjoys volunteering, spending time outdoors, and traveling with friends and family.

## EXPERIENCE

- Draft Equal Employment Opportunity Commission position statements and rebuttals
- Advise clients on the effect of changes in Title VII, Sections 1981 and 1983, Family and Medical Leave Act, Americans with Disabilities Act, Arkansas Civil Rights Act, and the Occupational Safety and Health Act
- Prepare complaints, answers, discovery responses, discovery requests and demand letters for a variety of general litigation cases
- Draft various family law motions and orders to provide clients a successful resolution
- Conduct substantive research on complex issues arising during the course of litigation at both the trial and appellate level

## SERVICES

Administrative & Regulatory Investigations  
Affirmative Action/OFCCP Compliance  
Class & Collective Actions  
Commercial/Business Litigation  
Discrimination & Harassment Defense  
Employer-Specific Document Drafting  
Employment Litigation & Arbitration  
Family Law & Guardianships  
Government & Internal Investigations  
Labor & Employment  
Labor Law, Union Avoidance & Labor  
Management Relations  
Litigation & Dispute Resolution  
Regulatory & Compliance  
Trade Secrets & Unfair Competition  
Wage & Hour Defense  
Workplace Safety & Health

## EDUCATION

- University of Arkansas School of Law, Juris Doctor, Magna Cum Laude, 2020
- University of Cambridge, England - Downing College
- University of Arkansas, Bachelor of Arts: Journalism-Advertising and Public Relations, 2017



## HONORS

- Publication: *The Secret Sauce of Ballot Initiative Approval: Eliminating Issues within Arkansas's Pre-Circulation Review*, 72 Ark. L. Rev. 683 (2020).
- Managing Editor, Arkansas Law Review
- Note and Comment Editor, Arkansas Law Review
- Moot Court Regional Semifinalist, American Bar Association National Appellate Advocacy Competition
- Chair, Ben J. Alzheimer Moot Court Competition
- Outstanding Oralist, Ben J. Alzheimer Moot Court Competition
- Best Brief Award, Ben J. Alzheimer Moot Court Competition
- Legal Research and Writing Appellate Advocacy Award – Best Oralist
- University of Arkansas School of Law Dean's List
- Student Speaker, University of Arkansas School of Law Golden Gala
- Arkansas Bar Foundation Justice Folgeman Award Recipient
- Member, Arkansas Student Bar Association
- Representative, Women's Law Student Association

## AFFILIATIONS

- Arkansas Bar Association
- Pulaski Bar Association
- Pulaski County Court Appointed Special Advocates (CASA)
- Kappa Kappa Gamma Little Rock Alumni Association



# Ryan Smith

Associate

479-435-2919

rsmith@roselawfirm.com



Ryan focuses his practice on business litigation. Prior to joining Rose Law Firm, he served as a judicial law clerk for the Honorable P.K. Holmes, III, of the United States District Court for the Western District of Arkansas. During law school, Ryan served as an Articles Editor on the Arkansas Law Review and Chair of the Honor Council.

## SERVICES

Administrative & Regulatory Investigations  
Antitrust  
Appellate Advocacy  
Class Action/Mass Action  
Commercial/Business Litigation  
Financial Services  
Insurance  
Intellectual Property Litigation  
Litigation & Dispute Resolution  
Medical Marijuana

## ADMISSIONS

Arkansas

## EDUCATION

- University of Arkansas School of Law, Magna Cum Laude
- Articles Editor, Arkansas Law Review
- Leeds Beckett University, Master of Arts, Sports, Law and Society, with Merit
- Heidelberg University, Bachelor of Science, Political Science, Cum Laude