

J. Calhoun Watson

MANAGING MEMBER

(803) 231-7839 | cwatson@robinsongray.com



Cal is a litigator with experience in complex business and insurance disputes, class actions, and professional liability and ethics. During his 30 years of practice, Cal has represented numerous individuals, local and national businesses, partnerships, insurance companies, and financial institutions. Named by South Carolina Lawyers Weekly as 2015 Lawyer of the Year, Cal has been consistently recognized by Best Lawyers, Super Lawyers, and Chambers USA. Active in the South Carolina Bar, Cal has served as President of the South Carolina Bar, President of the South Carolina Bar Foundation, and President of the John Belton O'Neall Inn of Court. Cal is the managing member of the firm.

PRACTICE AREAS

- Mediation & Arbitration
- Commercial Litigation
- Professional Liability and Ethics

ADMISSIONS

- South Carolina Bar
- U.S. District Court for the District of South Carolina
- U.S. Court of Appeals for the Fourth Circuit

EDUCATION

- University of South Carolina School of Law, J.D., *cum laude* (1987)
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 - Order of the Wig and Robe
 - Student Works Editor of the South Carolina Law Review
 - Legal Writing Instructor (1986-1987)
- Wofford College, B.A., *summa cum laude* (1984)
 - Phi Beta Kappa
 - President of the Student Body

PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIPS

- American Bar Association
- Richland County Bar Association
- South Carolina Bar
 - President (2014-2015)
 - Board of Governors (1998-2000, 2009-2016)
 - House of Delegates (1997-present)
 - Conventions Committee (2003-2008)
 - Nominating Committee (2001-2004)
 - Long Range Planning Committee (2000-2001)
 - President, Young Lawyers Division (1997-1998)
 - Member, Long Range Planning Committee, Young Lawyers Division (1995-1996)
- South Carolina Bar Foundation
 - President (2006-2007)
 - Member, Board of Directors (2000-2008)
- International Association of Defense Counsel
 - Chair, Professional Liability Committee (2016-2018)
 - Chair, Professional Liability Roundtable (2017-2019)
 - Chair, Technology Committee (2010-2012)
 - Chair, Website Task Force
- National Conference of Bar Presidents (2014-present)
 - Member, Communications Committee (2014)
- John Belton O’Neill Inn of Court
 - President (2010-2011)
- Fellow, American Bar Foundation (2014-present)
- Senior Fellow, Litigation Counsel of America (2014-present)
- South Carolina Defense Trial Attorneys’ Association (1996-present)
- Defense Research Institute (1996-present)
- Southern Conference of Bar Presidents (2014-present)
- Claims & Litigation Management Alliance
- Access to Justice Commission (2006-2012)
- South Carolina Lawyer Magazine
 - Member, Editorial Board (2000-2007)
- Supreme Court of South Carolina Certified Mediator

JUDICIAL CLERKSHIPS

- The Honorable Robert F. Chapman, Judge, U.S. Court of Appeals for the Fourth Circuit (1987-1988)

HONORS & AWARDS

- *South Carolina Lawyer’s Weekly* “Go To Lawyer” for Business Law in South Carolina (2021)
- *South Carolina Lawyer’s Weekly* Leadership in Law Awards Lawyer of the Year (2015)
- Best Lawyers in America
 - Bet-the-Company Litigation (2010-2022); Lawyer of the Year (2016, 2022)
 - Commercial Litigation (2008-2022)
 - Professional Malpractice Law, Defendants (2008-2022)
- South Carolina “Super Lawyer”
 - Professional Liability Defense (2010-2012)
 - Business Litigation (2008-2020)
- Chambers U.S.A. America’s Leading Lawyers for Business (2009-2020)
- *Litigation Special Report* Top Rated Lawyer in Commercial Litigation (2012)
- Historic Columbia Innovative Leadership Award (2010)
- USC Law School Alumni Association Compleat Lawyer Award Silver Medallion (2001)

PUBLICATIONS & PRESENTATIONS

- Presenter, “Calibrating Your Ethical Compass: Navigating Conflicts of Interest” (April 21, 2021)
- Panelist, “Scaling the Summit: Fiscal Strategy & Business Growth at Midsize Firms,” virtual roundtable of the Annual Law Firm COO & CFO Forum by Thompson Reuters’ Legal Executive Institute (October 30, 2020)
- Presenter, “10 Hot Topics on Conflicts of Interest” (April 22, 2020)
- Panelist, “You Are What You Think So What’s On Your Mind? Tackling Implicit Bias Through Self Assessment,” South Carolina Bar Convention (January 25, 2020)
- Panelist, “Implicit Bias,” SC Judicial Conference’s Staff Attorney and Law Clerk Seminar (September 2019)
- Presenter, “10 Hot Topics in Conflicts of Interest” (April 10, 2019)
- Presenter, “Legal Ethics: 10 Hot Topics in Conflicts of Interest”



and Best Practice Tips” (July 25, 2018)

- Presenter, “Professional Liability in the Age of Social Media,” Meritas Litigation/Labor & Employment Group Meeting (October 17, 2017)
- Panelist, “Law Firm of the Future,” Meritas Annual Meeting (April 21, 2017)
- Co-Author, *The Law of Legal Malpractice in South Carolina* (2017)
- Presenter, “Spotlight on Conflicts of Interest” (May 18, 2017)
- Presenter, “Spotlight on Conflicts of Interest” (August 11, 2015)

COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT

- 20 Years Strong Service Project: Ask-A-Lawyer event (2017)
- Historic Columbia Foundation
 - President (2007-2009)
 - Historic Columbia Advisory Council (2009-present)
- Wofford College National Alumni Association
 - President (2000)
- Wofford College Parents Advisory Council (2012-2013)
- Greater Columbia Chamber of Commerce
- South Carolina Chamber of Commerce
- AC Flora PTSO
 - Co-President (2011-2012)