



Brian P. Kappel
Partner

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Brian Kappel is a versatile litigator who learned from some of the best.

Brian cut his litigation “teeth” at Lightfoot alongside some of the best trial attorneys in Alabama — and he applies that knowledge every day in his cases. Clients value Brian’s individualized attention, creative thinking and ability to efficiently find solutions for thorny problems.

With his business and commercial litigation practice, Brian regularly represents companies involved in all manner of contract disputes. He also defends companies against antitrust, complex class action and product liability claims. Additionally, Brian defends his corporate clients against a variety of employment-related matters, including those involving Title VII, the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission (EEOC), the Age Discrimination Employment Act (ADEA), the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) and similar statutory claims under federal and state law. Brian has particular experience representing retailers and chain stores in investigating, defending and quickly resolving discriminatory practices claims.

Beyond his business and commercial work, Brian also represents institutional and individual clients with collegiate sports and NCAA compliance-related issues. Drawing on his personal experience in collegiate and professional sports as an Academic All-American baseball player at Princeton University and Minor League relief pitcher, he counsels institutions, coaches, administrators and student-athletes involved in or affected by NCAA investigations. In this role, he has assisted and directed internal compliance investigations for multiple NCAA institutions. Brian also has experience in interpreting NCAA legislation and advising clients on appropriate responses to violations of NCAA rules, including the scope and implementation of penalties. When necessary, Brian defends his clients throughout the entire enforcement process, including before the various NCAA Committee on Infractions. Brian’s NCAA clients rely on him for strategic advice that goes beyond the specific legal issues in play, often touching on ancillary topics such

PRACTICE AREAS

Automotive
Class Actions
Commercial Litigation
Directors’ & Officers’ Liability
Employment Law
NCAA Compliance & Investigations
Product Liability

EDUCATION

Duke University School of Law
(J.D., *cum laude*)
Princeton University (B.A.)

BAR ADMISSIONS

Alabama
Georgia

as media and public relations.

In his free time, Brian enjoys running with his golden retriever, playing golf and, whenever possible, taking in a baseball game. His most important role is as husband to wife Ashley and father to Olivia, James and Beau.

JUDICIAL CLERKSHIPS

Judge Gerald B. Tjoflat, U.S. Court of Appeals for the 11th Circuit

PROFESSIONAL ORGANIZATIONS

Alabama Defense Lawyers Association (ADLA)

Defense Research Institute (DRI)

LEAD1

National Association of Athletics Counsel

Sports Lawyers Association, College Sports Committee

AWARDS

The Best Lawyers in America® "Ones to Watch" by BL Rankings — Commercial Litigation (2021-23)

The Best Lawyers in America® by BL Rankings — Commercial Litigation (2024)

ESPN, CoSIDA Academic All-America Team for baseball (2005)

Mid-South Super Lawyers by Thomson Reuters, "Rising Star" — Business Litigation (2014-2021), Entertainment & Sports (2021-22), Environmental Litigation (2023)

Princeton University, four-year letter winner for baseball (2001-05)

PRESENTATIONS AND PUBLICATIONS

Presenter, "Outside Counsel for NCAA Compliance: A Practitioner's Perspective," (May 3, 2018)