

Michael S. Sundermeyer

Partner

Mike Sundermeyer maintains a national trial practice with emphasis in professional liability defense, complex litigation, and administrative law. He has served as lead counsel in a variety of professional malpractice, real estate, securities, administrative, product liability, contract, partnership, and criminal defense matters.

Mike has defended dozens of major law firms and lawyers in malpractice and other professional liability claims since 1979. He has defended claims aggregating more than a billion dollars, including multiple claims in excess of insurance policy limits. His clients have included several Wall Street firms and numerous members of the Attorneys Liability Assurance Society. He also advises law firms on professional responsibility and liability prevention issues and chairs Williams & Connolly's Ethics Committee. He currently serves as vice-chair of the D.C. Bar Legal Ethics Committee and has been a member of the Bar's Rules of Professional Conduct Review Committee.

A member of the Bars of the District of Columbia, Maryland, Virginia, and of numerous federal courts, he has handled litigation that arose from or was filed in Arkansas, California, Delaware, the District of Columbia, Florida, Georgia, Illinois, Indiana, Kentucky, Maryland, Missouri, New Jersey, New York, Ohio, Oklahoma, Pennsylvania, Puerto Rico, Rhode Island, South Carolina, Texas, Utah, Virginia, West Virginia, and Wyoming.

Mike is a member of the Advisory Committee on Admissions and Grievances of the United States Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia Circuit. He speaks at continuing legal education seminars and programs and has served on the faculty of the Virginia State Bar Professionalism Course. Other lectures and programs include Federal Judicial Center Case Management Seminar for Federal Judges, Panel on Civil Litigation; "Legal Ethics Roundtable," Corporate Counsel Institute, Georgetown University; Georgetown University Law School Law Firm Roundtable; Panelist on Director and Officer Liability, Stanford University Law School Directors' College; "Attorney Liability in the Post-Enron, Sarbanes-Oxley Era," D.C. Bar Panel; "Practical Legal Ethics in Virginia"; "Ethical Issues Encountered in Representing Financially Troubled Companies," ABA National Conference on Professional Responsibility; "Whistle Blowing in the Wind: Retaliatory Discharge of Lawyers Who Follow the Ethics Rules," ABA National Conference on Professional Responsibility; "Ethical Issues for Lawyers and Experts"; and "Practical Legal Ethics in Virginia."



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Education

University of Virginia School of Law, J.D., 1976: Editor-in-Chief, Virginia Law Review; recipient of the Woods Award and the Note Prize
University of Kansas, B.A., with highest honors, 1973

Practice Focus

Administrative Law
Civil Litigation and Trial Practice
Commercial Litigation
Directors and Officers Liability
Lawyer Liability
Securities Litigation

Recognitions

"Washington's Best Lawyers,"
Washingtonian magazine, 2004-2015

Recognized as one of *The Best Lawyers in America*®, 1999-2018

"Washington, D.C. Legal Malpractice Law - Defendants Lawyer of the Year,"
The Best Lawyers in America®, 2017

"Washington, D.C. Ethics and

Mike received his B.A., with highest distinction, from the University of Kansas, and his J.D. from the University of Virginia School of Law where he was Editor-in-Chief of the *Virginia Law Review*. After law school, he clerked for Judge John Minor Wisdom of the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Fifth Circuit and Associate Supreme Court Justice Harry A. Blackmun. Mike joined Williams & Connolly in 1978. He has been listed over multiple years in *Best Lawyers in America*, *Super Lawyers*, and *Washingtonian Magazine's* "Washington's Top Lawyers," including a *Best Lawyers* designation as "Lawyer of the Year" for 2017 in Legal Malpractice Law-Defendants and for 2015 in Ethics and Professional Responsibility Law.

Resources

Presentations

- *IP Malpractice and Ethics Issues*, January 2017
- *Civil Litigation*, 2011
- *Legal Ethics Roundtable*, March 2009
- *Director and Officer Liability*, 2005
- *Attorney Liability in the Post-Enron, Sarbanes-Oxley Era*, 2005
- *Ethical Issues Encountered in Representing Financially Troubled Companies*, 2004
- *Whistle Blowing in the Wind: Retaliatory Discharge of Lawyers Who Follow the Ethics Rules*, 2004

Professional Responsibility Lawyer of the Year," *The Best Lawyers in America*®, 2015

Admissions

District of Columbia

Maryland

Virginia

United States Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia, Third, Fourth, Fifth, Sixth, Ninth, Tenth and Eleventh Circuits

United States District Court for the District of Columbia, Maryland, Eastern District of Virginia, and Northern District of Oklahoma