

## **Kenneth S. Byrd**

### **PARTNER**

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## **A Relentless, Principled Advocate**

A partner based in our Nashville office, Kenneth S. Byrd is an experienced trial attorney at Lieff Cabraser, obtaining several large jury trial verdicts against Big Tobacco over the past several years. He received the Tennessee Association for Justice's 2015 Paladin Award for his successful litigation against cigarette manufacturers R.J. Reynolds Tobacco Company, Philip Morris USA Inc., and Lorillard Tobacco Company in Florida federal courts. The Paladin Award is TAJ's highest honor and is given to the state's top trial lawyer of the year. Kenny's successful work on these cases included separate \$27 million and \$41 million jury verdicts that were upheld on appeal.

Kenny represents clients in mass tort cases, defective product cases and consumer fraud litigation. He represents consumers in consumer class action cases as well as injured individuals and their loved ones in personal injury and wrongful death lawsuits filed in across the country. Kenny's leadership roles include his appointment to the Plaintiff Steering Committee and Early Vetting Subcommittee in In re: 3M Combat Arms Earplug Liability Litigation, MDL No. 2885 (the largest MDL in history as far as number of claimants), and his appointment to the Plaintiffs' Steering Committee in In Re: AME Church Employee Retirement Fund Litigation, MDL No. 3035.

Kenny is also a member of Lieff Cabraser's Whistleblower/False Claims Act practice group, assisting whistleblowers to stop fraud and the misuse of funds in government contracts and programs.

## **Areas of Practice**

Consumer Protection, Defective Products

## Education

Boston College Law School, Boston, Massachusetts  
J.D. (Cum Laude) - 2004

Samford University  
B.S. - 1995  
Honors: Cum Laude  
Major: Mathematics  
Minor: Journalism

## Bar Admissions

Tennessee, 2004  
U.S. Court of Appeals, 6th Circuit, 2009  
U.S. District Court, District of Colorado, 2019  
U.S. District Court, Northern District of Illinois, 2016  
U.S. District Court, Eastern District of Michigan, 2020  
U.S. District Court, Eastern District of Tennessee, 2006  
U.S. District Court, Middle District of Tennessee, 2005  
U.S. District Court, Western District of Tennessee, 2007

## Published Works & Presentations

Panelist, "Sexual Assault Cases" and "Complex Trials," Trial Lawyers of Mass Torts (TLMT) New Orleans Conference, February 2025  
Moderator (4 Panels) and Co-Chair, HarrisMartin MDL Conference, September 2024  
Panelist, "What is a Plaintiff's Attorney?" Vanderbilt Law School Career Panel, February 2024  
Panelist, "Complex Litigation Trials Tips and Tricks," Trial Lawyers of Mass Torts Mardi Gras Bench and Bar Conference, February 2024  
Faculty, "Texas Two Step. When Insurance is Gone and the Bankruptcy Court Is Not: Mass Torts in Crisis," Mississippi Association for Justice (MAJ) Winter CLE Seminar, December 2022  
Speaker, "Mass Torts/Class Actions and Bankruptcy Issues," Trial Lawyers of Mass Torts Inaugural Conference, December 2022  
Co-author, American Bar Association, Survey of Federal Circuit Court's Class Action Decisions - 2018

## Professional Associations and Memberships

American Bar Association  
American Constitution Society, Nashville Chapter (Member; Chair of 2008 Supreme Court Preview Event)  
Camp Ridgecrest Alumni & Friends (Board Member)  
Harry Phillips American Inn of Court, Nashville Chapter (Associate Member, 2008 - 2010; Barrister, 2010 - 2014)  
Historic Edgefield, Inc. (President, 2009 - 2011)  
Nashville Bar Association  
Tennessee Bar Association

Tennessee Trial Lawyers Board of Directors

Tennessee Trial Lawyers Association (Board of Governors)

## Awards and Media

Selected for inclusion by peers in The Best Lawyers in America in fields of Consumer Protection Law, Personal Injury Litigation-Plaintiffs, and Product Liability Litigation-Plaintiffs, 2018 - 2025

“Lawdragon 500 Leading Plaintiff Consumer Lawyers in America,” Lawdragon, 2021-2024

“Lawyer of the Year for Product Liability Litigation,” Nashville, Best Lawyers, 2023

“Outstanding Private Practice Antitrust Achievement,” American Antitrust Institute, 2020

Media interview, “Full Measure Talks to Kenny Byrd About the “Forgotten” Tobacco War,” 2019

Adjunct faculty, Vanderbilt Law School, “The Practice of Aggregate Litigation,” 2018-present.

Media interview, “Kenneth Byrd in Nashville Scene on Big Tobacco Sponsorship of Schools,” 2017

Media interview, “The Big Drag,” Cover story highlighting Kenny Byrd and national impact of tobacco litigation, Nashville Scene, 2015

“Paladin Award,” Tennessee Association for Justice, 2015

“Rising Star for Mid-South,” *Super Lawyers*, 2014