



MARGARET Z. SMITH

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As a member of the Products, Catastrophic and Industrial Litigation Group, Margaret focuses her practice on drug and device litigation, general litigation and product liability litigation.

PRACTICE AREAS AND INDUSTRY TEAMS

- Products, Catastrophic & Industrial Litigation
- Tort, Transportation & Specialized Litigation
- Class Actions

EXPERIENCE

- *Rebecca and Jonathan Butler v. Jim Ray and the Webster County Schools*, Mississippi Court of Appeals (dismissal of claims in trial court affirmed on appeal).
- *George Waltman v. Engineering Plus, Inc.*, Circuit Court of Lauderdale County, Mississippi (summary judgment granted and then affirmed by the Mississippi Supreme Court).
- *Brady v. Prentiss County School District, et al.*, Circuit Court of Prentiss County, Mississippi (trial defense verdict).
- National representation of highway product manufacturer in product liability and personal injury claims.
- National representation of pharmaceutical and medical device manufacturer in national mass tort litigation related to pelvic mesh.
- *Russell v. FCA US LLC*, United States District Court Southern District of Mississippi, Northern Division (putative class action dismissed on early motion).
- *Amy Adams and Charles Adams v. Energizer Holdings, Inc., et al.*, United States District Court for the Southern District of Mississippi, Jackson Division (product liability claim dismissed on early motion).
- *Young v. City of Richland, Mississippi*, United States District Court for the Southern District of Mississippi, Jackson Division (civil rights violation claim dismissed on early motion).

- *Browning v. Beau Rivage Resorts, Inc., et al.*, Circuit Court of Harrison County, Mississippi (summary judgment for defense).
- *Vann v. City of Southaven, Mississippi*, United States Court of Appeals for the Fifth Circuit (amicus brief in support of appellants, which led to the Fifth Circuit panel granting a motion for rehearing, withdrawing a prior unfavorable opinion, and substituting for a new opinion).

BAR ADMISSIONS

- Mississippi, 2012

DISTINCTIONS

- *Best Lawyers in America*[®]
 - Ones to Watch, Mass Tort Litigation / Class Actions – Defendants, 2021
 - Ones to Watch, Product Liability Litigation – Defendants, 2021
- Board of Directors, New Stage Theater

ASSOCIATIONS

- Defense Research Institute
 - Young Lawyers Section
- American Bar Association
- Jackson Young Lawyers
- Madison County Bar Association
- Mississippi Defense Lawyers Association
- Capital Area Bar Association
 - Social Committee
 - Chairman, 2013-2014
- Junior League of Jackson
- Jackson Symphony League

EDUCATION & HONORS

- Mississippi College, J.D., *summa cum laude*, 2012
- University of Mississippi, B.S., Business Administration, 2007
 - Chancellor's Honor Roll
 - Dean's Honor Roll
 - University of Mississippi Alumni Scholarship
 - President, Order of Omega
 - *Executive Vice President*, National Society of Collegiate Scholars
 - *Beta Gamma Sigma*
 - *Alpha Lambda Delta*

PAPERS, PRESENTATIONS AND PUBLICATIONS

- Author, "[50 State Survey of Design Defect Requirements](#)," *Pro Te: Solutio*, Vol. 11 No. 4, 2018.
- Author, "[When in Doubt, Assert a Rule 403](#)," Practice Pointer, *Jackson Young Lawyers May 2018 Newsletter*, May 2018.
- Co-Author, "Does Spoliation Spoil a Product Liability Claim? Analyzing and Defending Product Liability Claims of the Product-less Claimant," IADC, *Product Liability Committee Newsletter*, December 2017.
- Co-Author, "Guilty By Association? Keeping Premises Owners Safe from Liability for Criminal Acts of Third Parties: Assignment of Fault to the Real Culprit," *The MDLA Quarterly*, Vol. 41, Number 1, Spring 2017.
- Co-Author, "Is It Time To Erase Chalkboard Damages?" DRI, *Strictly Speaking*, The Newsletter of the Product Liability Committee, Volume 13, Issue 4, December 2, 2016.
- Co-Author, "Guilty By Association? Keeping Premises Owners Safe from Liability for Criminal Acts of Third Parties," *The MDLA Quarterly*, Vol. 40, Number 4, Winter 2016.
- Co-Author, "The Phantom of the Chalkboard – The Collateral Source Rule and 'Billed' versus 'Paid' Medical Bills," *The MDLA Quarterly*, Vol. 38, Number 3, Fall 2014.
- Co-Author, "An Overview of the Legal Standard Regarding Product Liability Design Defect Claims and a Fifty State Survey on the Applicable Law in Each Jurisdiction," *IADC Product Liability Committee Newsletter*, September 2014.
- Co-Author, "[Survey of Design Defect Requirements](#)," *Pro Te: Solutio*, Vol. 7 No. 2, 15-23, [June 2014](#).