

Emily Runyon

Member

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Emily Runyon is an experienced litigation and trial attorney defending companies and institutions in diverse claims including employment, personal injury, wrongful death, medical malpractice and bad faith lawsuits. Drawing on her extensive experience as a litigator and background as an Arkansas Supreme Court clerk, she offers comprehensive counsel in litigation and insurance coverage matters, aligning legal strategies with clients' business goals. Emily provides Title VII and Title IX defense and investigations for school districts into sensitive employment issues and/or student or parental concerns, and advises insurance companies in the pre-suit investigation and resolution of a wide variety of insurance claims including medical malpractice, personal injury and property claims.

Practice Areas

Commercial Litigation
Employment and Labor
Education
Health Care Litigation
Professional and Medical Liability Defense
Appellate

Education

University of Arkansas School of Law
J.D. - (2005)

Texas Christian University
B.B.A. with honors - (2002)

Bar Admissions

Arkansas

Experience

- Successfully defended an insurer before the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Eighth Circuit in a discovery and bad-faith dispute, in which Plaintiff/Appellant's appeal was denied after oral argument.
- Served as first-chair trial counsel in multiple premises liability and motor vehicle cases with associated negligence claims, securing voluntary dismissal, favorable outcomes and defense verdicts.
- Represented an insured through trial after a motor-vehicle accident, obtaining a defense verdict from the jury on the issue of liability.
- Litigates employment claims and provides advice to educational institutions regarding Title VII and Title IX matters.
- Leads investigations on behalf of school districts across the state on a variety of complaints, both formal and informal.
- Advises insurance carriers on first and third party claims.
- Provides strategic advice to insurance carriers concerning pre-litigation claims.
- Counsels insurance carriers on coverage issues.

- Defends insurance companies against breach of contract and bad faith lawsuits.
- Defends insurance policyholders against personal injury, premise and wrongful death lawsuits.
- Represents hospitals and physicians in medical-malpractice claims.
- Drafts, files and argues dispositive motions on behalf of insurance carriers and/or policyholders.
- Served as a Judicial Law Clerk at the Arkansas Supreme Court for Justice Betty Dickey and Justice Paul Danielson.

Professional Recognition

- *The Best Lawyers in America®*: Medical Malpractice Law - Defendants (2024-2027)
- *The Best Lawyers in America®*: Personal Injury Litigation - Defendants (2024-2027)
- *The Best Lawyers in America®*: Product Liability Litigation - Defendants (2024-2027)
- *The Best Lawyers in America®*: Insurance Law (2016-2027)
- *The Best Lawyers in America®*: Litigation - Insurance (2016-2027)
- *The Best Lawyers in America®*: Education Law (2016-2027)
- *Best Lawyers®*: "Lawyer of the Year" for Insurance Law (2023)

Involvement

- International Association of Defense Counsel
- Arkansas Bar Association
- Board Trustees (2022-2023)
- Arkansas Association of Women Lawyers
- Former President
- Federation of Defense & Corporate Counsel
- Defense Research Institute
- Arkansas Association of Defense Counsel
- Delta Delta Delta Alumnae