Devin R. Bates

Member

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Devin Bates is a strategic litigator and trusted advisor who successfully represents plaintiffs and defendants in state and federal courts across Arkansas. He has extensive experience in complex business disputes with a particular emphasis on unfair competition litigation, including matters involving trade secrets, non-compete agreements, and intellectual property. Devin has a proven track record in litigating high-profile and bet-the-company matters encompassing issues such as breach of duty, defamation, securities fraud, constitutional claims, and conflicts involving governmental agencies and administrative proceedings. He represents clients ranging from publicly traded companies to small businesses to individual investors, corporate directors and celebrities. Prior to joining the firm, Devin served as a law clerk to Chief U.S. District Judge P.K. Holmes, III.

Practice Areas

Commercial Litigation
Intellectual Property
Products Liability and Mass Tort
Employment and Labor
Education

Education

William & Mary Law School
J.D., cum laude - (2016)

University of New Hampshire
B.S., Economics, summa cum laude - (2009)

Bar Admissions

Arkansas

Experience

- Achieved favorable seven figure settlement for client, successfully resolving three related business cases against common defendants who had breached their fiduciary duties and engaged in unfair competition.
- Obtained vindication for client whose businesses and freedoms were imperiled by an overly aggressive litigant and their counsel, prevailing in a preliminary injunction hearing involving allegations of trade secret theft and non-compete violations.
- Successfully prosecuted violation of non-compete agreement in international arbitration stretching across three countries in two continents.
- Represented one of Arkansas' largest school districts as lead counsel in three-week federal court trial, ultimately prevailing on three-quarters of the constitutional issues resulting in partial resolution of 38-year-old case.
- Defended client in highly contested fraud case, ultimately forcing the voluntary dismissal of the client immediately prior to trial.
- Led the expert workup of a seven-figure products liability action for a multinational Fortune 100 manufacturer, significantly undercutting plaintiff's theory of causation and resulting in an extremely favorable five-figure settlement.

- Defeated allegations of fraud and mismanagement brought against non-profit organization by state agency in administrative proceeding, resulting in complete dismissal of action.
- As lead counsel, obtained dismissal with prejudice on a dispositive motion for client in a complex, multi-party dispute over rare ancient artifacts
- Achieved pre-trial dismissal for national financial and administrative services company client in a class action involving alleged constitutional violations prior to certification of a proposed class.

Professional Recognition

- *Chambers USA*: Up & Coming Litigation General Commercial in Arkansas (2026)
- Legal500 US Southeast Elite: Intellectual Property (2026)
- *The Best Lawyers in America®:* Commercial Litigation (2027)
- *Best Lawyers: Ones to Watch® in America* Commercial Litigation (2024-2025)
- *Best Lawyers: Ones to Watch® in America* Product Liability Litigation - Defendants (2023-2025)
- *Best Lawyers: Ones to Watch® in America* Ones to Watch" Education Law (2022-2025)
- *Best Lawyers: Ones to Watch® in America* Labor and Employment Law - Management (2021-2025)
- JD Supra Readers' Choice Top Author - Products Liability (2021-2023)
- *Mid-South Super Lawyers Rising Stars*: Business Litigation (2024-2025)
- *Mid-South Super Lawyers Rising Stars*: Schools & Education (2022-2023)
- Arkansas Bar Association and Arkansas Bar Foundation Equal Justice Distinguished Service Award (2024)
- Arkansas Bar Foundation – Writing Award for Best Legal Writing: "ChatGPT: A Lawyer's Friend or Ethical Time Bomb? Professional Responsibility in the Age of AI" (2024)
- Arkansas Access to Justice, Honoree, Outstanding Pro Bono Service (2023)
- Graduate, 48th International Association of Defense Counsel (IADC) Trial Academy (2022)
- *Arkansas Business* 40 Under 40 (2022)
- *Arkansas Money and Politics* Future 50 (2022)
- Graduate, Leadership Greater Little Rock, Class XXXV (2019-2020)
- The Order of the Barristers (2016)
- Managing Editor, William & Mary Business Law Review (2015-2016)
- Winner, National Competition, Hassell Constitutional Law Moot Court (2015)

Involvement

- Chair, Federal Practice Committee, U.S. District Court for the Eastern District of Arkansas
- Chair, Mitchell Williams Recruiting and Retention Committee

- Mitchell Williams Culture and Belonging Committee
- Mitchell Williams Mentoring Committee
- Board of Directors, AR Kids Read (2019-present)
- President (2021-2022)
- Vice Chair (2020-2021)
- Board of Directors, Economics Arkansas (2020-present)
- Board of Directors, Create Little Rock, Little Rock Chamber of Commerce (2018-2020)
- Eighth Circuit Bar Association
- American Bar Association
- Arkansas Bar Association
- Artificial Intelligence Task Force Member
- Pulaski County Bar Association