

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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THREE CHRISTIAN & SMALL ATTORNEYS NAMED 2019 'LAWYER[S] OF THE YEAR' BY *BEST LAWYERS*; 17 RECOGNIZED AS 2019 'BEST LAWYERS IN AMERICA'

BIRMINGHAM, Ala. (Aug. 23, 2018) – The law firm of [Christian & Small LLP](#), headquartered in Birmingham, Alabama is proud to congratulate our three partners – [Edgar M. Elliott IV](#), [Richard E. Smith](#) and [Michael A. Vercher](#) – who were recognized in the 2019 edition of *The Best Lawyers in America* as “Lawyer[s] of the Year” for their respective practice areas: Transportation Law, Construction Litigation, Land Use and Zoning Litigation.

The firm is also pleased to announce that 17 partners have been included in the 2019 edition of *The Best Lawyers in America*. Added to the list this year was Partner [Bradley R. Hightower](#) (Bankruptcy and Creditor Debtor Rights/Insolvency and Reorganization Law). In addition, the following partners are being recognized for consistently achieving Best Lawyers rankings for the past five to 30 years: [Greer B. Mallette](#) (five years), [LaBella S. Alvis](#) (10 years), [James B. Carlson](#) (10 years), [Edgar M. Elliott IV](#) (10 years), [Deborah Alley Smith](#) (10 years), [Richard E. Smith](#) (10 years), [Daniel D. Sparks](#) (10 years), [Sharon D. Stuart](#) (10 years), [David B. Walston](#) (10 years), [Clarence M. Small Jr.](#) (30 years), and [Thomas W. Christian](#) (30 years).

New practice areas are denoted by a [*] below.

Christian & Small attorneys recognized are:

- **LaBella S. Alvis [10]: Personal Injury Litigation – Defendants**
- **Bill D. Bensinger: Bankruptcy and Creditor Debtor Rights/Insolvency and Reorganization Law; Bankruptcy Litigation**
- **James B. Carlson [10]: Commercial Litigation; Personal Injury Litigation – Defendants*; Product Liability Litigation – Defendants**
- **Thomas W. Christian [30]: Medical Malpractice Law – Defendants; Personal Injury Litigation – Defendants; Product Liability Litigation – Defendants**
- **Edgar M. Elliott IV [10]: 2019 “Lawyer of the Year” – Transportation Law; Insurance Law; Mass Tort Litigation/Class Actions – Defendants; Personal Injury Litigation – Defendants**
- **Retired Judge R.A. "Sonny" Ferguson Jr.: Family Law Arbitration; Family Law Mediation**
- **Bradley R. Hightower: Bankruptcy and Creditor Debtor Rights/Insolvency and Reorganization Law**
- **John W. Johnson II: Insurance Law; Insurance Litigation**
- **Jonathan W. Macklem: Labor and Employment Litigation**
- **Greer B. Mallette [5]: Construction Law; Construction Litigation; Real Estate Litigation**
- **Clarence M. Small Jr. [30]: Arbitration; Mediation; Personal Injury Litigation – Defendants**
- **Deborah Alley Smith [10]: Appellate Practice; Commercial Litigation; Insurance Law**
- **Richard E. Smith [10]: 2019 “Lawyer of the Year”– Construction Litigation; Commercial Litigation; Banking & Finance Litigation**
- **Daniel D. Sparks [10]: Bankruptcy and Creditor Debtor Rights/Insolvency and Reorganization Law; Commercial Litigation; Banking & Finance Litigation; Bankruptcy Litigation**
- **Sharon D. Stuart [10]: Commercial Litigation; Insurance Law; Labor & Employment Litigation; Securities Litigation; Mass Tort Litigation/Class Actions – Defendants; Product Liability Litigation – Defendants**
- **Michael A. Vercher: 2019 “Lawyer of the Year” – Land Use and Zoning Litigation; Insurance Litigation; Mass Tort Litigation/Class Actions – Defendants; Personal Injury Litigation – Defendants**

- **David B. Walston [10]: Employment Law – Management; Labor & Employment Litigation**

According to its website, Best Lawyers has published its list for over three decades and its recognition “is based entirely on peer review. [Its] methodology is designed to capture, as accurately as possible, the consensus opinion of leading lawyers about the professional abilities of their colleagues within the same geographical area and legal practice area.” Only one attorney is recognized as the “Lawyer of the Year” for each specialty and location.

About Christian & Small LLP

[Christian & Small LLP](#) represents a diverse clientele throughout Alabama, the Southeast and the nation with clients ranging from individuals and closely held businesses to Fortune 500 corporations. By matching [highly experienced lawyers](#) with specific client needs, Christian & Small develops innovative, effective and efficient solutions for clients. Christian & Small focuses on the [areas of business and litigation](#) and is a member of the [International Society of Primerus Law Firms](#) and the only Alabama-based member firm in the [Leadership Council on Legal Diversity](#). Please visit www.csattorneys.com for more information.

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