

Nashville Post 2016 In Charge – Legal

The go-to advisors, prosecutors and entrepreneurs you need to know

authors Staff Reports

As has become an annual tradition, the *Post* presents In Charge, a compendium of Middle Tennessee's top business, politics and civic leaders. Our list, the *Post*'s seventh, represent the best of the best — and always are “in charge.”

Jane Allen — Chairman, Counsel On Call: Launched legal services company 15 years ago to fill a need by working with corporations and law firms to lower costs and get results. Recently passed CEO torch to Vince Verna to focus on career paths and lifestyles of firm's attorneys.

Kathryn E. Barnett — Managing Partner, Nashville, Morgan & Morgan: Leads one of the city's best-regarded plaintiffs-only firms and, during first year in charge, has grown the Nashville office from four employees to 16. Areas of practice include consumer protection, personal injury and torts, and defective products.

Julian Bibb — Member, Stites & Harbison: Banking, finance and real estate law expert known for land preservation efforts. Helped secure Battle of Franklin sites and assisted Land Trust for Tennessee in preserving open spaces.

Charles W. Bone — Founder and Chairman, Bone McAllester Norton: Represents clients on matters ranging from mergers and acquisitions, financial institutions and government relations.

Ross Booher — CEO, Latitude Legal Solutions: With health care exec Ken Clarke, former Bass Berry attorney started firm that provides seconded attorneys and legal operations consulting to companies and law firms.

Robert E. Boston — Partner, Waller Lansden Dortch & Davis: One of the state's top employment lawyers. Handles compensation and compliance disputes. Represents employers in complicated wrongful termination issues.

Matthew Burnstein — Chairman, Waller Lansden Dortch & Davis: Named chairman of powerful firm in 2014. Shepherds companies ranging from health care giants to emerging tech firms through transactions.

Scott Carey — Managing Shareholder, Baker Donelson Bearman Caldwell & Berkowitz: Top dog in Nashville office of prestigious Southeastern firm. Expert on transportation law and general counsel for Tennessee Republican Party.

Mark Chalos — Managing Partner, Nashville Office, Lief Cabraser Heimann & Bernstein: Leads Nashville office of leading national plaintiffs-only firm. Much ballyhooed for work in personal injury and negligence cases and, along with colleagues Kenny Byrd and John Spragens, has won major verdicts in Big Tobacco cases.

James H. Cheek III — Member, Bass Berry & Sims: Maestro of public company legal representation. Retained to probe New York Stock Exchange operations after SEC required it to hire a non-conflicted auditor.

Chase Cole — Partner, Waller Lansden Dortch & Davis: Major player in legal community regarding corporate law and mergers and acquisitions. Served as lead outside counsel on the largest IPO ever conducted by a Nashville-based company (HCA).

Dan Elrod — Member and Managing Partner, Nashville Office, Butler Snow: Represents more than 40 Tennessee health care institutions on regulatory issues and advocates for the interests of clients before the Tennessee General Assembly.

Craig V. Gabbert Jr. — Shareholder, Harwell Howard Hyne Gabbert & Manner: Among the top bankruptcy practitioners in the Southeast. Involved in such major corporate cases as SouthEast Waffles, Nu-Kote Holdings (twice) and Regal Cinemas. Will move to Bass Berry & Sims in the spring.

Stacey Garrett — Founding Member, Board Chairperson, Bone McAllester Norton: Concentrates practice in higher education, corporate transactions, health care and government affairs. Represents several institutions of higher education.

Alberto Gonzales — Dean, Belmont University School of Law: Former U.S. attorney general tapped by Belmont as first leader of its law school. Serves on Governor's Commission on Judicial Appointments.

Bob Goodrich — Partner, Burr & Forman: Considered city's top creditors-rights attorney in bankruptcy and insolvency matters. Director of Mid-South Commercial Law Institute. A coveted and well-regarded lecturer and writer on bankruptcy law.

Chris Guthrie — Dean, Vanderbilt University School of Law: Has served as dean of VU law school since 2009. Nationally recognized expert on behavioral law and economics, dispute resolution, negotiation and judicial decision making.

Aubrey Harwell — Partner and Co-Founder, Neal & Harwell: Practice centers on commercial litigation, white-collar criminal defense and crisis management. Has represented Bridgestone/Firestone and former San Francisco 49ers owner Eddie DeBartolo in various matters. Recently turned over reins as chief manager to Phil Irwin.

Lela Hollabaugh — Nashville Managing Partner, Bradley Arant Boult Cummings: Expanding on role as team leader for firm's business litigation team, was named managing partner of BABC's Nashville office in September. Regarded as one of the South's top lawyers in gas-pipeline matters. General counsel for Nashville Bar Association.

Kolin Holladay — Partner in Charge, Adams and Reese: Serves as team leader of corporate, securities and mergers and acquisitions groups as well as Nashville point man for the firm. In addition to traditional commercial law matters, advises various entertainment clients.

Phil Irwin — Chief Manager, Neal & Harwell: After three decades with the firm, succeeded founder Aubrey Harwell in December. Primarily a civil litigator who is active in the community, serving on numerous boards, including that of his alma mater Lipscomb University.

Bill Koch Jr. — Dean, Nashville School of Law: Respected jurist who served on the Tennessee Court of Appeals and State Supreme Court, giving up chance to be chief justice to lead NSL, where he has taught since 1997.

Brad Lampley — Government relations team leader, Adams and Reese: Former office managing partner with particular experience in transportation, energy, health care and insurance. Ex-University of Tennessee scholar-athlete who was appointed in 2013 to the UT system's Board of Trustees.

Ed Lanquist — Managing Shareholder, Patterson Intellectual Property Law: Focuses practice on patent and trademark litigation, intellectual property counseling and trademark prosecution. Has filed more than 1,200 trademark registration applications and about 150 patent applications.

Tom Lawless — Attorney, Lawless & Associates: Bankruptcy and creditors' rights specialist who has helped numerous area lenders digest foreclosures and other so-called special assets.

David Lewis — Of counsel, Miller & Martin: Former chair of firm's health care practice group and expert on regulatory and transactional health care law with more than a quarter century of experience.

Mark Manner — Managing Shareholder, Harwell Howard Hyne Gabbert & Manner: One of the few biotech legal experts in the city. Also handles complex M&A deals, securities and capital formation. Will move to Bass Berry & Sims in the spring.

Jerry Martin — Partner, Barrett Johnston Martin & Garrison: Former U.S. attorney focuses his practice on representing whistleblowers exposing fraud and abuse, as well as employment litigation and civil rights cases.

Bob Mendes — Member, Waypoint Law: Past president of the Nashville Bar Association whose practice focuses on representing debtors, creditors, creditors' committees, trustees and purchasers of assets in bankruptcy cases. Elected as at-large Metro Council member in 2014.

E. Marlee Mitchell — Partner, Waller Lansden Dortch & Davis: Expert in equity and debt offerings, private placements, joint ventures and VC financings. Began legal career at Tennessee Department of Commerce and Insurance.

Mekesha Montgomery — Member in Charge, Frost Brown Todd: Member of firm's labor and employment law practice group. Represents management in the areas of employment discrimination and wrongful discharge, union negotiations and arbitration.

William L. Norton — Partner, Bradley Arant Boult Cummings: Has represented just about every kind of client interest regarding bankruptcy cases. Represented creditors against Robert McLean, a \$50 million Ponzi schemer.

Larry Papel — Lead Partner, Nelson Mullins Riley & Scarborough: Regarded as a national leader in land-use and real estate law. Has made strong contributions as a board member of the Nashville Civic Design Center and Watkins College of Art, Design and Film.

Bob Patterson — Managing Partner, Bradley Arant Boult Cummings: Visionary who spearheaded the eyebrow-raising plan to move the then-Boult Cummings Conner & Berry from the central business district to Roundabout Plaza, helping spark attention on Midtown.

William L. Penny — Partner, Burr & Forman: Former Stites & Harbison member moved to Burr in early 2015. One of Middle Tennessee's top experts on environmental law, chairs firm's practice group.

Brant Phillips — Partner, Bass Berry & Sims: Focused on complex litigation and public policy. Is co-chair of the firm's securities and shareholder litigation group and member of the executive committee.

Tom Potter — Partner, Burr & Forman: Corporate and securities law expert and former aide to Mayor Richard Fulton. Made 2015 splash by recruiting big team from Stites' local office, then turned over managing partner role to Stephen Price.

Patsy Powers — Partner, Waller Lansden Dortch & Davis: Returned to Waller as a partner after a long stint as senior associate general counsel at Vanderbilt University, where she primarily represented the medical center. Perhaps predictably, she joined Waller's expanding health care practice group.

Stephen Price — Managing Partner, Burr & Forman: Former partner at Stites & Harbison was one of the earliest recruits of Tom Potter, who led the massive growth of Burr. Price replaced Potter and expects aggressive expansion to continue.

Gregg Ramos — Partner, North Pursell & Ramos: Emphasis is personal injury, employment law and workers' compensation. Serves on many community boards. Past president of the Nashville Bar Association, Catholic Charities of Tennessee and Conexion Americas.

David Raybin — Co-Founder, Hollins Raybin & Weissman: Heads firm's criminal defense section, which includes criminal trials, criminal appeals, parole hearings and civil rights litigation.

David Rivera — U.S. Attorney, Middle District of Tennessee: In time as the federal government's chief prosecutor in Nashville, has led the charge in multiple fraud and whistleblower matters in health care.

Jennifer Robinson — Office Managing Shareholder, Littler Mendelson: Leads the Nashville branch of the world's largest labor and employment firm. With practice primarily focused on the food and beverage industry, has successfully defended scores of wage-and-hour suits.

Todd Rolapp — Managing Partner, Bass Berry & Sims: Became managing partner of one of the city's most prestigious law firms in January 2013. Previously served as chair for the firm's corporate and securities department.

Robert Sartin — Member, Frost Brown Todd: Former managing partner of Lexington-based firm who relocated to Nashville in 2011. Leads firm's automotive industry team and serves on nine-member executive committee.

Tom Sherrard — Founding Member, Sherrard & Roe: Practice includes mergers and acquisitions, corporate finance and corporate and securities law. Influence extends deep into Metro circles, as former chair of the Nashville Area Chamber of Commerce.

Joycelyn Stevenson — Shareholder, Littler Mendelson: Defends corporate clients in discrimination matters and handles frequent work in the business immigration realm. President of Nashville Bar Association.

Gif Thornton — Managing Partner, Adams and Reese: Regularly tops rankings of effective lobbyists in government relations trade publications. Well connected, has served on numerous boards. Prior to law school, served as a foreign service officer.

Byron Trauger — Partner, Trauger & Tuke: Attorney, close friend and adviser to former Gov. Phil Bredesen. Rhodes Scholar whose practice is concentrated in health care, complex civil litigation, general business matters, government relations and regulatory agency work.

Vince Verna — CEO, Counsel On Call: Recently took over day-to-day leadership of on-demand legal services company from Jane Allen. Comes from a workplace solutions and IT background and is charged with improving the company's operations and marketing.

Jack Waddey — Partner, Waller Lansden Dortch & Davis: Former Waddey Patterson founder joined Waller in early January 2015, bringing four colleagues with