



Michael D. Risley

Title: Member

Phone: 502-681-0409

Location: Louisville, KY

Email: [mrисley@stites.com](mailto:mrисley@stites.com)

Download: [vCard](#)

Mike Risley is Co-Chair of the firm's Appellate Advocacy Group and former Chair of the Louisville office's Litigation Service Group. A seasoned litigator, Mike frequently appears before both state and federal appellate courts. He also has deep experience in disputes involving insurance bad faith and coverage, ERISA, and commercial and employment-related matters. Mike formerly served as the Louisville Office Executive Member and is a former member of the firm's Management Committee.

## CAPABILITIES

---

### Practice Areas

- Appellate Advocacy
- Business Litigation
- Employee Benefits
- Insurance Coverage, Bad Faith & Regulatory Litigation
- Litigation & Appeals

## RECENT ASSIGNMENTS

---

- Currently representing Kentucky bourbon distiller on matters arising from well-publicized collapse of bourbon warehouse.
- Currently representing multiple clients in various appellate courts.
- Convinced Kentucky Supreme Court to not abandon traditional classification of entrants upon land in premises liability cases. (2018)
- Successfully represented plaintiffs before the Kentucky Supreme Court in connection with \$100 million judgment partially set aside by the Court of Appeals. (2018)
- Successfully represented insurer in Sixth Circuit in plaintiff's appeal of dismissal of bad faith claims. (2020)
- Successfully represented insurer in Kentucky Court of Appeals in plaintiff's appeal from setting aside of significant default judgment. (2019)
- Represented insurer before the Kentucky Supreme Court in significant bad faith verdict. (2017)
- Successfully represented insurer before Kentucky Supreme Court in reversal of Court of Appeals dismissal of insurer's appeal on procedural grounds. (2015)

## BAR ADMISSIONS

---

- Kentucky
- U.S. Court of Appeals for the 6th Circuit
- U.S. Court of Appeals for the 8th Circuit
- U.S. District Court for the Eastern District of Kentucky
- U.S. District Court for the Western District of Kentucky
- U.S. Supreme Court

## RECENT NEWS, ARTICLES & SPEAKING ENGAGEMENTS

---

- US Chamber Urges 6th Circ. To Ax FirstEnergy Class Cert.  
By Katryna Perera, Law360.com, February 20, 2024
- Tie Votes in the Kentucky Supreme Court  
*Bench & Bar Magazine*, Kentucky Bar Association, March/April 2023
- Friend or Foe - Dealing With Your Own Insurer  
Kentucky Bar Association In-House Counsel seminar, March 8, 2022
- IN PERSON: Stites & Harbison's Michael Risley goes from small town to the big time By Steve Kaufman, Louisville Business First, February 1, 2021
- The Court of Appeals is Speaking - Are We Listening?  
*Louisville Bar Briefs*, January 2021
- How Louisville's lawyers, architects and accountants are going remote  
by Marty Finley and Sarah Shadburne, *Louisville Business First*, April 2, 2020
- Stites & Harbison names new top exec in Louisville  
by Chris Larson, *Louisville Business First*, March 3, 2020
- Kentucky High Court Restores \$80M Punitive Damages Against Firm  
*Law360*, December 13, 2018
- Homebuilder's commercial liability insurance may not completely protect you Stites & Harbison, PLLC, Client Alert, March 30, 2010
- Q&A with Stites & Harbison's Michael Risley Law 360, New York, November 10, 2009

## FIRM LEADERSHIP

---

- Appellate Advocacy group, Co-Chair
- Louisville Office Recruiting Committee, Member
- Business Acceptance Committee, Member
- Former Office Executive Member, Louisville Office
- Diversity Committee, Former Member
- Louisville Litigation Service Group, Former Chair
- Management Committee, Former Member

## MEMBERSHIPS

---

- American Bar Association
- Kentucky Bar Association
- Louisville Bar Association
- Defense Research Institute
- Kentucky Defense Counsel
- Kentucky Bar Foundation , Life Member

## COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT

---

- Better Business Bureau of Greater Louisville, General Counsel
- Episcopal Diocese of Kentucky, Church Attorney
- St. Francis School, former long-term Board of Trustees member
- University of Kentucky Fellow

## EDUCATION

---

University of Kentucky College of Law J.D., with highest distinction 1983

Murray State University B.S., Psychology *summa cum laude* 1977

## MORE THAN STITES & HARBISON

---

Mike serves as General Counsel to the Better Business Bureau of Greater Louisville. He is a Church Attorney for the Episcopal Diocese of Kentucky, and a former long-time member of the Board of Trustees of St. Francis School, an independent school located in Louisville.

Mike spends some of his time away from the office travelling, being an avid sports fan, and serving at his Church. In addition, while a notoriously bad golfer, Mike will long be remembered for winning the closest to the pin contest at the 2005 Louisville Bar Association annual golf outing.

## ACCOLADES

---

- *Martindale-Hubbell*<sup>®</sup> AV-Preeminent<sup>®</sup> Peer Review Rated
- *Best Lawyers in America*<sup>®</sup>, Appellate Practice (2011-24)
- *Best Lawyers in America*<sup>®</sup>, Louisville Area Lawyer of the Year in Appellate Law (2017, 2022)
- *Kentucky Super Lawyers*<sup>®</sup> (2013-24)
- *Louisville Magazine's* "Top Lawyers" for Insurance Law (2013, 2014, 2016)
- *Finance Monthly*, Fintech Awards Insurance & Reinsurance Lawyer of the Year (2019)