



Douglas B. Bates

Title: Member

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Doug Bates is an experienced trial lawyer who has been with the firm since 1992. He appears in state and federal courts throughout Indiana and Kentucky and has argued both before the Indiana Court of Appeals and the 7th Circuit Court of Appeals. Mr. Bates regularly defends aviation clients, including airlines, major municipal airports, product manufacturers, aircraft mechanics and fixed base operators, and is often asked to speak at national aviation-related seminars. Mr. Bates also represents clients in product liability litigation, nursing home litigation, lender liability litigation and complex business litigation matters. He also represents several insurance clients with respect to coverage disputes.

# CAPABILITIES

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## Practice Areas

- Airport Law
- Aviation
- Business Litigation
- Environmental Litigation
- Financial Services Litigation
- Insurance Coverage, Bad Faith & Regulatory Litigation
- Litigation & Appeals
- Pharmaceuticals & Medical Devices Litigation
- Product Liability Litigation
- Professional Liability Litigation

## RECENT ASSIGNMENTS

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- Successfully represented a commercial property owner whose insurance carrier refused to pay roofing and interior storm damage claims. Following a trial involving 14 witnesses and over 800 exhibits, the jury returned a verdict (\$3.9 million) awarding all of the damages incurred.
- Convinced the Indiana Court of Appeals by a 2-1 vote to reverse the trial court's finding of personal jurisdiction over our clients, two related non-residents of Indiana engaged in repairing helicopter engines. *Cadorath Aerospace Lafayette, LLC v. Ricks*, No. 18A-CT-2953 (Ind. App. October 17, 2019)
- Obtained dismissal of product manufacturer based on failure to state a cause of action
- Obtained dismissal of medical device manufacturer on statute of limitations grounds
- Successfully represented county zoning agency before the Indiana Court of Appeals on issue regarding the burning of hazardous waste
- Obtained dismissal of negligence action against railroad client on forum non conveniens grounds
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- Obtained a directed verdict in the defense of a national manufacturer against claims of fraud, breach of fiduciary duty and breach of contract
- Obtained a TRO in favor of a national retail chain against competitor
- Obtained summary judgment on behalf of municipal airport in premises liability case
- Obtained dismissal of negligence action against aviation staffing client
- Successfully defended national mortgage loan company in lawsuit alleging fraud, constructive fraud and negligence

## BAR ADMISSIONS

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- Indiana
- Kentucky
- U.S. Court of Appeals for the 7th Circuit
- U.S. District Court for the Northern District of Indiana
- U.S. District Court for the Southern District of Indiana
- U.S. District Court for the Western District of Kentucky

## RECENT NEWS, ARTICLES & SPEAKING ENGAGEMENTS

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- Law firms keep focus on clients as changes continue  
by Marilyn Odendahl, *The Indiana Lawyer*, January 20, 2021
- GUEST COMMENT: What businesses need to look for with Covid-19 liability  
*Louisville Business First*, August 14, 2020
- Federal Rule 26(A)(2) Expert Witness Disclosures: Strategies for Composing and Attacking Expert Disclosures  
Article, 83 J. Air. L. & Com. 67 (2018)
- Federal Rule 26(a)(2) Expert Witness Disclosures: Strategies for Composing and Attacking Expert Disclosures  
51st Annual SMU Air Law Symposium, Irving, TX, March 30, 2017
- Recent Developments in Aviation Case Law  
SlideShare [Presentation](#)
- Food Law Update  
Stites & Harbison Thirsty Thursday, Food Safety Modernization Act, March 26, 2011
- The Basics of Electronic Discovery  
Sherman Minton Inns of Courts, April 22, 2010
- Yer Out! Getting Rid of Your Trial Judge in Indiana and Kentucky  
Sherman Minton Inn of Courts, February 24, 2009

## FIRM LEADERSHIP

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- Office Executive Member, Jeffersonville, IN Office
- Retirement Plan Committee, Member
- Jeffersonville Office Recruiting Committee, Member (ex officio)
- Lateral Recruiting Committee, Member

## MEMBERSHIPS

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- American Bar Association
- Indiana Bar Association
- Clark County Bar Association
- Defense Research Institute

## COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT

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- Jeffersonville Rotary
- Boy Scouts (Troop Leader)
- Junior Achievement
- Leadership Southern Indiana
- Southern Indiana Legal Volunteers

## EDUCATION

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Indiana University School of Law - Indianapolis J.D. *cum laude* 1992

- Dean's List

Indiana University Southeast B.A., History 1989

- Chancellor's List 1988

- Dean's List

- Student Body President 1988

- Student of the Year Award 1988; History Student of the Year 1988

- Alpha Chi Honor Society

## MORE THAN STITES & HARBISON

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Mr. Bates enjoys playing guitar with his sons and spending time at the family farm in Indiana. He is Past President of the Indiana University Southeast Alumni Association and was presented the Indiana University Alumni Association's President's Award (2010). Mr. Bates is active with the Boy Scouts of America and Leadership Southern Indiana. Doug was an intern for Magistrate-Judge Kenneth Foster, United States District Court for the Southern District of Indiana.

## ACCOLADES

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- *Best Lawyers in America®*, Aviation Law; Product Liability Litigation - Defendants (2024)