



Brian Butler

Title: Member

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A trial attorney, Brian Butler has tried over 100 jury trials. Most recently, Brian had his own firm where he handled high-profile criminal defense cases, including white collar cases, in United States District Courts in Kentucky and Indiana as well as in state trial courts throughout Kentucky and Indiana. He is intimately familiar with complex federal investigations including those involving corporations and their employees. Before entering private practice, Brian served as an Assistant United States Attorney for the Western District of Kentucky where he prosecuted a variety of federal crimes. Prior to joining the United States Attorney's Office, Brian was a supervisor at the Commonwealth Attorney's Office in Louisville where he primarily prosecuted high-profile homicide cases. Brian started his legal career as a United States Navy Judge Advocate where he served as both a prosecutor and defense attorney.

Brian's success as a trial attorney has been widely-reported including being the subject of a front page profile piece by the *Louisville Courier-Journal*. He routinely serves as a legal analyst for Louisville television stations and the *Louisville Courier-Journal*. He served for many years as an adjunct professor for trial advocacy at the University of Louisville and a guest trial advocacy instructor at the National Advocacy Center in Columbia, South Carolina. He has conducted numerous trial focus groups on behalf of civil litigants. In 2021, he was appointed by the federal bench in the Western District of Kentucky to be the Criminal Justice Act panel representative in connection with indigent defendants obtaining quality legal representation in United States District Court.

Brian is a Fellow with the American College of Trial Lawyers (ACTL) and a Fellow with the American Board of Criminal Lawyers (ABCL).

CAPABILITIES

Practice Areas

- Business Litigation
- Class Action, Mass Action & Multi-District Litigation
- Litigation & Appeals
- Product Liability Litigation
- Professional Liability Litigation
- White Collar Criminal Defense Litigation

BAR ADMISSIONS

- Indiana
- Kentucky
- U.S. District Court for the Eastern District of Kentucky
- 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

- Judge faults Breonna Taylor's boyfriend for shooting death, clears 2 Louisville offices of felony charges
by Danielle Wallace, Fox News, August 25, 2024
- Felony charges dismissed against 2 former Louisville officers charged in the Breonna Taylor raid
by Paradise Afshar and Dalia Faheid, CNN, August 23, 2024
- Federal judge dismisses most serious charges against 2 officers involved in Breonna Taylor raid
by Jason Riley, August 22, 2024
- Key federal charges dropped against former LMPD officers behind Breonna Taylor warrant
by Josh Wood, Rachel Smith and Lucas Aulbach, *Louisville Courier Journal*, August 22, 2024
- University of Notre Dame Law School recognizes Brian Butler for becoming a Fellow of the American Board of Criminal Lawyers (ABCL)
by Jonathan Bailey, August 1, 2024
- Kentucky Criminal Law Update: Navigating Legislative Changes and Legal Trends
Louisville Bar Association CLE, April 18, 2024
- Reevaluating Your Company's Compliance Program with *Michael Denbow* Stites & Harbison Client Alert, July 20, 2023
- FULL INTERVIEW: Discussion of USDOJ investigation into LMPD with Brian Butler interview by Dawne Gee, WAVE.com, March 8, 2023
- Former UofL basketball player Robbie Valentine won't serve jail time, placed on probation
by Curadhan Powell, WLKY.com, March 6, 2023
- Three Bingham Fellows class initiatives to focus on Downtown Louisville
by Shea Von Hoy, *Louisville Business First*, February 24, 2023
- Buffalo Supermarket Shooter to Appear in Court for Federal Hate Crime Charges
SCRIPPS News, February 2023
- Kentucky bail laws can make cost of crimes inconsistent
by Tori Gessner, wave3.com, February 17, 2022

- Louisville man pleads guilty to 2012 fatal shooting of 15-year-old
WDRB.com, December 21, 2021
- Ex-Louisville coach Dina Gaudio sentenced to one year probation, \$10K fine in extortion case
by Shannon Russell, Louisville Courier Journal, August 27, 2021
- Feds Oppose Prison For Fired NCAA Coach's Blackmail Threat
By Rachel Scharf, Law360.com, August 11, 2021
- Common billing errors that land medical providers on the government's radar
Medical News, July 25, 2021
- Case against Gibson County Clerk accused of pulling a gun on a man has been dismissed
by Staff, Joylyn Bukovac, TristateHomepage.com, July 20, 2021
- Ex-Louisville assistant basketball coach Dino Gaudio pleads guilty in federal extortion case
by Shannon Russell, *Louisville Courier-Journal*, June 4, 2021
- Common Billing Errors that Land Medical Providers on the Government's Radar *with Jennifer
Henry Jackson* Stites & Harbison Client Alert, June 2, 2021
- Kentucky's self-defense laws negated possible homicide charges in Breonna Taylor's death
by Andrew Wolfson, *Courier Journal*, September 24, 2020
- High-profile local defense attorney leaves his firm to join Stites & Harbison as member
By Sarah Shadburne, *Louisville Business First*, August 13, 2020
- Former federal prosecutor joins Stites & Harbison in Louisville
The Lane Report, August 7, 2020

FIRM LEADERSHIP

- Louisville Office Recruiting Committee, Co-Chair

MEMBERSHIPS

- American College of Trial Lawyers (ACTL) , Fellow
- American Board of Criminal Lawyers (ABCL) , Fellow
- Kentucky Bar Foundation , Fellow
- American Bar Association
- Kentucky Bar Association
- Louisville Bar Association

EDUCATION

University of Notre Dame Law School J.D. 1995

- Harold Weber Award for Oral Advocacy

- Dean's List

- National Moot Court Team

University of Kentucky B.A., with honors 1991

MORE THAN STITES & HARBISON

Brian started his legal career as a Judge Advocate General with the United States Navy (1995-98). He then joined the Commonwealth of Kentucky Attorney's office (1999-2004) as Assistant Commonwealth Attorney and Chief of a General Trial Unit where he prosecuted and tried numerous murder cases while also supervising multiple prosecutors and staff as Chief of the General Trial Unit (2002-04); prosecuted crimes against children and domestic violence cases (1999-2001); and was selected to serve as adjunct faculty at the National Advocacy Center in Columbia, South Carolina, where he taught trial advocacy to prosecutors from every jurisdiction in the U.S. (2000-04). Brian then joined the United States Attorney's Office (2004-06) as Assistant U.S. Attorney where he prosecuted federal crimes including drug trafficking, Title III (wiretap) cases, firearms cases, violent crimes and numerous other federal crimes; successfully tried multiple jury trials; redrafted and assisted in implementing the U.S. Attorney's Office's policy for selecting and prosecuting gun crimes and served as the Gang Crimes Coordinator for the Western District of Kentucky. After leaving the public defense practice, he was a Member of Dathorne & Butler (2007-20) where he was a successful trial attorney. Brian has served as a legal expert for local television and print media.

ACCOLADES

- *Martindale-Hubbell*® AV-Preeminent® Peer Review Rated
- *Best Lawyers in America*®, Commercial Litigation; Product Liability Litigation - Defendants (2023-25)
- *Kentucky Super Lawyers*® (2012-24)
- *Louisville Magazine*, Top Lawyers
- Recipient of two Navy Achievement Medals for litigation success as a United States Navy JAGC
- Bingham Fellows, Class of 2022