



**John L. Tate**

Title: Senior Member

Phone: 502-681-0460

Location: Louisville, KY

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

Download: [vCard](#)

A senior member of the firm's Torts & Insurance Practice Group, John's national and regional litigation practice focuses on defending complex product liability lawsuits and managing serial litigation. His extensive trial experience includes medical devices, pharmaceuticals, intellectual property, and a variety of personal injury matters. John has tried product liability cases to jury verdicts in eight states.

John also maintains an active appellate practice representing appellees, appellants, and *amici curiae* in state and federal courts.

One of John's long-standing interests is the application of Daubert criteria to exclude substandard opinion testimony. Decisions on this topic include *Morehouse v. Louisville Ladder*, 2004 U.S. Dist. LEXIS 21766 (South Carolina); *Reynolds v. Freightliner*, 2006 U.S. Dist. LEXIS 97244 (Kentucky); *Hayes v. MTD Products*, 2007 U.S. Dist. LEXIS 66109 (Kentucky); *Campos v. MTD Products, Inc.*, 2009 U.S. Dist. LEXIS 12951 (Tennessee); *Walker v. Louisville Ladder*, 2009 U.S. Dist. LEXIS 9917 (Tennessee); *Scarvelli v. Leatt Corporation*, 2013 U.S. Dist. LEXIS 98366 (Ohio); *Lyons v. Leatt Corp.*, 2017 U.S. Dist. LEXIS 148783 (Ohio); and *Wilden v. Laury Transp., LLC*, 901 F.3d 644 (6th Cir. 2018).

## CAPABILITIES

---

### Practice Areas

- Appellate Advocacy
- Business Litigation
- Class Action, Mass Action & Multi-District Litigation
- Insurance Coverage, Bad Faith & Regulatory Litigation
- Pharmaceuticals & Medical Devices Litigation
- Product Liability Litigation

## RECENT ASSIGNMENTS

---

- In recent years, lead counsel in jury trials in Ohio, Indiana, Tennessee, Kentucky, and Florida
- Appellate victory for automobile manufacturer vacating a \$2.5 million punitive damage verdict
- Defense verdict for Leatt Corporation in federal court in Cleveland (OH) in claim by teenaged paraplegic and his parents
- Helped secure summary judgment, and argued successful 6th Circuit appeal, defeating high-stakes side underwrite lawsuit against major trailer manufacturer

## BAR ADMISSIONS

---

- Kentucky
- U.S. Court of Appeals for the 11th Circuit
- U.S. Court of Appeals for the 4th Circuit
- U.S. Court of Appeals for the 6th Circuit
- U.S. Court of Appeals for the 7th 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 Southern District of Indiana
- U.S. District Court for the Western District of Kentucky
- U.S. Supreme Court

## RECENT NEWS, ARTICLES & SPEAKING ENGAGEMENTS

---

- Defeating Challenges to the Admissibility of Opinion Testimony  
Multi-State Client Seminars, Oct. 22-24, 2024
- A Forever Chemicals Primer: When, Why, How, Who, and Where? *with Jennifer J. Cave*  
Forever Chemicals: What Does Your Business Need to Know and Do?, Stites & Harbison  
Webinar Series, P ...
- Diversity in the Courtroom, American College of Trial Lawyers  
Guest Presenter and Faculty, Chicago, IL, Aug. 23-25, 2024
- Corporate Depositions: The Sword and The Shield  
33rd Annual Medical Device Seminar, Coeur d'Alene, ID, June 11, 2021
- Combatting The Rise of Extreme Opinions in the Jury Room  
co-speaker with A. Jabbour, Ph.D., and W. Ruskin, Esq., IADC Webinar, April 8, 2020
- Seeing and Avoiding Ethical Pitfalls  
Kentucky Paralegal Association Annual Convention, Lexington, KY, November 8, 2019
- Effective Appellate Oral Advocacy  
A joint project of ACTL, AAAL, and Access to Justice Commission, Chase School of Law, July  
26, 2019
- Challenging Expert Testimony: What Works, What Doesn't  
Kentucky Bar Association Annual Convention, Louisville, KY, June 13, 2019
- Preparing and Presenting Witnesses in Civil Litigation  
Kentucky Bar Association Annual Convention, Lexington, KY, June 14, 2018
- *Daubert* Success and Practice Strategies  
30th Annual Medical Device Seminar, Naples, FL, June 9, 2017
- Witnesses  
Chapter 8, *Kentucky Civil Practice at Trial* (4th ed., 2017)
- Do Daubert Motions Really Work?  
*Inside Counsel*, December 29, 2016
- Cross-Examination Using Learned Treatises  
*Products Liability Law & Strategy*, January 2016

- Extreme Sports Challenge the Courts *with Emily Larish Startzman* Product Liability Law & Strategy, August 2015
- Evidentiary Objections at Trial  
LBA Trial Academy, August 2014
- Fire and Explosion Litigation Strategies  
DRI Product Liability Conference, National Harbor, Md., April 2013
- Federal Jurisdiction and Venue  
*Product Liability Law & Strategy*, v. 31, no. 1, July 2012
- Litigation Prevention: Using Litigation Experience to Help Reduce Product Risks  
4th Annual Product Safety & Liability Conference, Washington, D.C., October 2011
- Warnings & Instructions From A to Z  
3d Annual Product Safety & Liability Conference, Washington, D.C., October 2010
- Expert Reports in Litigators on Experts, American Bar Association, Section of Litigation,  
October 2010
- How to Survive a Daubert Challenge  
AICPA National Conference on Forensic Accounting, Boston, Mass., September 2010
- Establishing Diversity in Medical Device Litigation  
*Product Liability Law & Strategy*, v. 29, no. 2, August 2010
- Daubert and Rule 702: Effectively Presenting and Challenging Experts in Federal Court  
ALM Webinar, January 2010

## FIRM LEADERSHIP

---

- Torts & Insurance Practice Group, Former Co-Chair
- Stites University
- Diversity Committee, Member

## MEMBERSHIPS

---

- Product Liability Advisory Council
- Federation of Defense & Corporate Counsel
- International Association of Defense Counsel
- Defense Research Institute
- Lawyers for Civil Justice

## EDUCATION

---

University of Louisville Louis D. Brandeis School of Law J.D. *magna cum laude* 1981

University of Louisville M.A. 1971

Wake Forest University B.A. 1969

## BEFORE STITES & HARBISON

---

John's first career was teaching high school and college students in history, English literature, and rhetoric. He later spent seven years in an environmental regulatory agency before going into private practice.

## MORE THAN STITES & HARBISON

---

A long-time supporter of the arts, John served for 12 years on the board of directors of Actors Theatre of Louisville. He was previously a member of the board of directors of the American Lung Association of Kentucky and served as board president in 1994-96. John also served as trustee of St. Francis School in Goshen and on the board of the Louisville Audubon Society. John served multiple terms as a director of the Louisville Bar Foundation, the philanthropic arm of the Louisville Bar Association, culminating in 2016 with service as the foundation's president.

## BESIDES STITES & HARBISON

---

John and his wife, Phyllis, live on a working farm outside of Louisville, raise, rescue, and board horses, and clean lots of stalls.

## ACCOLADES

---

- Fellow, American College of Trial Lawyers
- *Martindale-Hubbell*® AV-Preeminent® Peer Review Rated
- *Best Lawyers in America*®, Bet-the-Company Litigation; Commercial Litigation; Personal Injury Litigation - Defendants; and Product Liability Litigation - Defendants (1995-2025)
- *Best Lawyers in America*®, Louisville Area Lawyer of the Year for Defense of Product Liability Litigation (2012)
- *Kentucky Super Lawyers*® (2007-25)
- *Kentucky Super Lawyers*®, Top 50 Lawyers in Kentucky (2007, 2010-17, 2019-20)
- *Louisville Magazine* "Top Lawyer" (2014, 2016)
- Brandeis School of Law at the University of Louisville, Distinguished Alumnus award (2011)
- *Benchmark Litigation* magazine, Litigation Star (2008, 2009, 2013-25)

## TESTIMONIALS

---

" John Tate is one of the best trial lawyers I have worked with. "

- *Best Lawyers*

" John's litigation experience and his ability to spot potential liability issues is exceptional. "

- *LinkedIn*

" He is among the crème de la crème of attorneys I have known in my 30+ years of claims experience. "

- *LinkedIn*