



Byron E. Leet

Partner

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Location

400 West Market Street
Suite 2000
Louisville, KY 40202

Honors



Woodward/White's The Best Lawyers in America® in the areas of Bet-the-Company Litigation, Commercial Litigation, Banking & Finance Litigation, and Intellectual Property Litigation, 2006-2020, and Education Law and Personal Injury Litigation - Defendants, 2016-2020

Best Lawyers® 2016,
2020 Louisville Bet-the-Company Litigation "Lawyer of the Year"

Best Lawyers® 2014 Louisville Litigation-Intellectual Property "Lawyer of the Year"

Best Lawyers® 2013 Louisville Litigation-Banking & Finance "Lawyer of the Year"

Recognized as a Litigation Star by *Benchmark Litigation 2017 - 2019*

Recognized as a Local Litigation Star by *Benchmark Litigation 2013*

Recognized among the Top 50 Kentucky *Super Lawyers®*, 2018

Recognized by his peers in *Kentucky Super Lawyers®* 2007-2018

Highest Professional AV Rating by *Martindale-Hubbell Law Directory*

Chambers USA: America's

Byron Leet is Co-Chair of the Firm's Litigation & Dispute Resolution Service Team, and a former member of the Firm's Executive Committee. Byron has 30 years of experience in state and federal court handling jury trials, bench trials, and injunction hearings in several states.

Byron has been praised by clients and peers alike. "Byron Leet is incredibly quick on his feet," according to a peer who adds: "Judges and juries like and trust him. He also deftly handles a range of corporate and consumer litigation." "He is bright, confident and sure on his feet, impressing peers with his work in the healthcare and financial sectors." *Chambers USA America's Leading Lawyers for Business. Benchmark Litigation* said Byron is "roundly praised by fellow litigators."

Representative Matters

- *McFarland v. Jefferson County Board of Education, et al.*, 330 F. Supp.2d 834 (W.D. Ky. 2004), aff'd, 416 F.3d 513 (6th Cir. 2005), rev'd, 127 S.Ct. 2738 (2007) - lead trial counsel defending the Jefferson County, Kentucky public school system in litigation challenging the constitutionality of the student assignment plan for some 95,000 students in the school district.
- *Atria Senior Living Group, Inc. v. Best Western International, Inc.*, 2009 WL 3756994 (W.D. Ky. 2009) - successful defense of national hotel chain at injunction stage in trademark infringement action.
- *Rally Concepts v. Republican National Committee, et al.* - lead counsel representing defendant accused of copyright infringement in a case involving a famous political campaign logo; jury verdict for defense.
- Lead counsel representing a number of national banks in defense of lender liability actions and counterclaims which were dismissed at summary judgment stage or tried successfully to a jury.
- *Levin v. Secretary Masten Childers*, 101 F.3d 44 (6th Cir. 1996) - lead counsel defending the Secretary of the Kentucky Cabinet for Human Resources in a civil rights action alleging the Secretary improperly suspended a physician for suspicion of Medicaid fraud.
- *Conco, Inc. v. Lockheed Martin Ordnance Systems, Inc.* - lead counsel representing an Army defense contractor in defense of multi-million dollar contract and tort claims asserted by a Government subcontractor.
- Representation of distillery in trademark infringement action involving competing bourbon advertising campaigns.
- *Commonwealth of Kentucky v. Zach Caldwell*, Perry County, Kentucky Circuit Court - co-counsel in a two week murder trial in the mountains of Eastern Kentucky.
- *Muhammad Ali v. Walter Cuff*, Jefferson County, Kentucky Circuit Court - representation of Muhammad Ali in litigation regarding ownership of a robe worn by Ali while fighting under the name Cassius Clay.
- *Arsenault v. PNC Mortgage Corp. of America*, 2002 WL 509402 (6th Cir. 2002) - lead counsel in defense of a putative class action challenging bank refinance solicitation letters.
- *Architecture Plus, Inc. v. Cicely Lambert and Commonwealth of Kentucky, Department of Treasury v. Commonwealth of Kentucky, Finance and Administration Cabinet* - lead counsel representing the Chief Justice of the Kentucky Supreme Court in two challenges to his actions as head of the Court of Justice.
- Representation of targets and witnesses before federal grand juries investigating various criminal law violations.
- Representation of the manufacturer of a coal truck in a wrongful death action arising from an accident at a Kentucky coal mine.

Leading Lawyers for Business,
Commercial Litigation

Recognized as one of the "Top
Lawyers" in the areas of Bet-the-
company Litigation (2014),
Business Law (2014), Business
Litigation (2013), General
Litigation (2013), and Personal
Injury Law-Defense (2014) by
Louisville Magazine

Education

1983 - J.D., Vanderbilt
University; member of the
National Moot Court team

1980 - B.A., *cum laude*,
University of Louisville

Admissions

Kentucky

- Lead counsel in numerous corporate shareholder disputes at both the trial and appellate levels.

Professional Activities and Memberships

- Louisville and Kentucky Bar Associations
- Louisville Bar Foundation, Inc., President 2015
- Defense Research Institute
- Federalist Society, Louisville Lawyers Chapter