



## Hiawatha Northington II

### PARTNER

Jackson

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### RELATED SERVICES

- Commercial Litigation
- Employment
- Bad Faith
- Tribal & Native American
- Transportation
- Professional Liability Defense
- Product Liability
- Consumer Financial Services
- Catastrophic & Traumatic Brain Injury Defense
- Trucking

### OFFICES

- Jackson

### OVERVIEW

Hiawatha Northington II is Managing Partner of the Jackson office of GRSM. His practice encompasses a wide range of complex litigation matters, including professional liability, labor and employment, and insurance defense matters in state and federal courts.

For nearly thirty years, Hiawatha has successfully represented Fortune 500 companies and closely-held corporations, small towns and large municipalities, and individuals and insurance companies in a variety of litigated matters. His experience includes high-stakes, complex commercial disputes and representation of defendants in products liability, breach of warranty, breach of fiduciary duty, and professional liability claims; labor and employment matters; bad faith insurance claims; premises liability litigation; fair housing proceedings; class actions; consumer fraud cases; and white-collar

criminal and governmental investigations. He has successfully first-chaired dozens of bench and jury trials across Mississippi and Louisiana in both federal and state courts, and he has represented numerous clients in administrative proceedings before federal, state, and local boards and agencies and in arbitration. His experience has also allowed him to successfully resolve hundreds of claims prior to trial, through motion practice and alternative dispute resolution.

Since 2005, Hiawatha has been a certified mediator by the Mississippi Bar, and he has successfully handled numerous mediations and informal settlement conferences.

Hiawatha also has extensive appellate and legal writing experience, having argued numerous appeals and authored hundreds of briefs and motions in both state and federal court. From 2007 to 2017, he also served as an Adjunct Professor of legal writing and appellate advocacy at the Mississippi College School of Law.

## REPRESENTATIVE EXPERIENCE

### Representative Experience

- Successfully tried to verdict case involving allegations of defective component in tire assembly
- Successfully defended surplus lines carrier and obtained summary judgment on claims of breach of contract and breach of fiduciary duty in lawsuit for failure to renew policy
- Successfully defended insurer against claims by State of Mississippi for reimbursement by of federal disaster relief funds used to pay victims of Hurricane Katrina
- Successfully litigated complex injury and death claims involving automotive manufacturers following post-collision and non-collision fuel fed fires
- Successfully tried to verdict case on behalf of law firm client involving allegations of breach of contract
- Successfully tried breach of contract action against the federal government for failure to honor housing development agreement following Hurricane Katrina
- Successfully secured nominal settlement for property owner in premises liability case involving shooting on premises that left plaintiff partially paralyzed
- Successfully obtained subrogation payment for employer against third party liability carrier based on prior representation of claimant employee in underlying medical negligence case of surgical error
- Obtained confidential settlement for multinational corporation in action against former attorneys for negligence and breach of fiduciary duty
- Successfully represented family land trust in action against successor multinational corporation for remediation of environmental contamination
- Obtained summary judgment on behalf of bank in action alleging breach of contract and breach of fiduciary duty in connection with construction loan
- Successfully defended attorneys before the Complaint Tribunal of the Mississippi Bar

- Obtained summary judgment in third-party criminal premises liability action against property owner, favorably interpreting requirements of the Mississippi Landowners Protection Act
- Obtained summary judgment in bad faith claim against insurer in action alleging unjustified delay in payment of policy limits for claim

### **Representative Reported Cases**

- *Bennett v. Hill-Boren, P.C.*, 52 So. 3d 364 (Miss. 2011)
- *Potomac Ins. Co. of Illinois v. Adams*, 997 So. 2d 238 (Miss. App. 2008)
- *Cooper Tire & Rubber Co. v. Farese*, 248 Fed. Appx. 555 (5th Cir. 2007)
- *The Mississippi Bar v. Walls*, 890 So. 2d 875 (Miss. 2004)
- *Illinois Central R. Co. v. Winters*, 863 So. 2d 955 (Miss. 2004)
- *Illinois Central R. Co. v. Hawkins*, 830 So. 2d 1162 (Miss. 2002)
- *Byrd v. The Mississippi Bar*, 826 So. 2d 1249 (Miss. 2002)
- *Dorrough v. Wilkes*, 817 So. 2d 567 (Miss. 2002)
- *Fennell v. Stewart*, 807 So. 2d 1262 (Miss. App. 2001)

### **CREDENTIALS**

#### **Admissions**

- Mississippi
- Texas
- Supreme Court of the Mississippi Band of Choctaw Indians
- U.S. Court of Appeals, Federal Circuit
- U.S. Court of Appeals, Eleventh Circuit
- U.S. Court of Appeals, Fifth Circuit
- U.S. District Court, Northern and Eastern Districts of Texas
- U.S. District Court, Northern and Southern Districts of Mississippi

#### **Memberships**

- State Bar of Mississippi
- State Bar of Texas
- American Bar Association
- Magnolia Bar Association

### **Community Involvement**

- Kappa Alpha Psi Fraternity, Inc, Canton-Madison (MS) Alumni Chapter
  - Founder
  - Vice-Polemarch, 2002-2004
  - Polemarch, 2004-2006
  - Guide Right Chair, 2018-2023
  - Advisor, Central Mississippi Kappa League, 2018-2023
- Jackson State University National Alumni Association, Madison County Alumni Chapter
- Past Board Member, Crossroads Film Society
- Past Board Member, The Oaks House Museum

### **Education**

- J.D., University of Texas School of Law, 1996
  - Member, The Review of Litigation
- B.B.A., *summa cum laude*, Accounting, Jackson State University, 1993
  - Phi Kappa Phi

### **Honors**

- 2019 Leader in Law, Mississippi Business Journal
- 2010-2012 Mid-South Rising Stars
- 2001 Lawyer of the Year, Mississippi Conference of the Branches of NAACP