



Burch, Porter & Johnson, PLLC
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Taylor A. Cates

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PRACTICE AREAS

- Commercial & Business Litigation
- Intellectual Property, Information Technology & Media Law
- Products Liability

BAR ADMISSIONS

- American Bar Association
- Tennessee Bar Association
- Memphis Bar Association

ADMITTED TO PRACTICE

- Tennessee, 1999

EDUCATION

- Vanderbilt University School of Law (J.D., 1999)
- University of Virginia (B.A., 1996)

Taylor Cates practices in the field of complex litigation. He handles business disputes, real property disputes, and personal injury matters, in state court, federal court, and in arbitration. Over the years, he has handled a number of matters in the field of disaster restoration and construction litigation all over the country. He also represents clients in intellectual property matters, including trademark and copyright infringement litigation and the protection of intellectual property rights.

He has been a frequent speaker on intellectual property matters. He also regularly speaks to industry groups in the field of disaster restoration about best practices to maximize collection and avoid litigation.

Mr. Cates served for many years as an Assistant Prosecutor, and then Chief Prosecutor, for the City of Germantown, Tennessee. He also served as the first Municipal Judge for the then - newly established City Court for Lakeland, Tennessee.

Named to the Best Lawyers in America© list in the area of Commercial Litigation, Product Liability Litigation since 2020, Mr. Cates was named Best Lawyers in America© Lawyer of the Year in the area of Product Liability Litigation in 2026.



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PROFESSIONAL HONORS AND ACTIVITIES

- Named as Best Lawyers® "Lawyer of the Year" for Product Liability Litigation - Plaintiffs in the Memphis area (2024, 2026)
- 2023 Fellow of the Memphis Bar Foundation
- Named to the Best Lawyers in America© list in the area of Commercial Litigation, Product Liability Litigation (2020 -2026)
- Selected to the Mid-South Rising Stars list in the area of Business Litigation (2010-2014)
- Tennessee Bar Association Leadership Law program (2009)
- Leo Bearman, Sr. Chapter of American Inn of Court (2006- 2008)
- Memphis Bar Association Leadership Forum (2005- 2006)

PUBLICATIONS AND PRESENTATIONS OF NOTE

- Co-author, "Tennessee Survey of Privacy and Related Torts Against the Media," Libel Defense Resource Center (1994, updated annually)
- Presenter, "Current Issues, Trends and Developments in Intellectual Property," National Business Institute (2005)

COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT

- Board of Directors; Memphis Interfaith Hospitality Network, 2005 to present