

# JAMES C. BAKER

LITIGATION

PARTNER

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## — BIOGRAPHY

**James C. Baker** focuses his practice on the areas of casualty insurance defense, gas and electrical utility defense, railroad and trucking defense, and commercial and construction litigation. He has first-chaired more than 125 jury trials to verdict and represented clients in more than 400 non-jury trials, arbitrations, and mediations.

J.C. has extensive experience in responding to real-time catastrophic accidents and leading accident scene investigations and inspections, including for trains, motor vehicles, tractor/trailers, and electrical utilities. His experience in investigating and defending catastrophic accidents includes:

- Motor carrier and transportation litigation
- Driver negligence
- Hours of service, log falsification, and fatigue
- Loading and tie-down
- Speed
- Mechanical and maintenance defects
- Accident reconstruction
- Use of global positioning devices
- Use of electronic data recorders
- Human factors
- Biomechanical factors
- Catastrophic brain and orthopedic injuries
- Wrongful death
- Ptsd and mental anguish
- Toxicology
- Mass tort actions
- Spoliation issues
- Toxicology
- Utility lines
- Fire and explosion investigations
- Nfpa 921
- Federal motor carrier safety regulations
- Federal railroad and track safety standard regulations
- National electrical safety code

## Practice Areas

[Litigation](#)

[Alternative Dispute Resolution](#)

[Appellate Law](#)

[Commercial Litigation & Regulatory](#)

[Constitutional Law](#)

[Product Liability](#)

[Railroad Litigation](#)

[Torts & Insurance](#)

[Trucking & Transportation](#)

## Industries

[Agriculture & Agribusiness](#)

[Banking & Finance](#)

[Construction & Real Estate](#)

[Education](#)

[Energy, Natural Resources & Utilities](#)

[Gaming & Horse Racing](#)

[Insurance](#)

[Manufacturing & Industrial](#)

[Professional Services](#)

[Transportation & Logistics](#)

[Technology, Media & Telecommunications  
\(TMT\)](#)

- National electrical code
- Federal and State Natural Gas Pipeline Safety Acts

J.C. regularly speaks on matters involving trial practice and workers' compensation, addressing self-insureds, the Arkansas Bar Association, insurance companies, and trade and industry associations.

## — EDUCATION

- University of Arkansas, Fayetteville, Leflar Law Center, J.D., 1986
- Hendrix College, B.A., 1983

## — NOTEWORTHY

- Member, American Board of Trial Advocates
- Listed in *The Best Lawyers in America*, since 2011
  - Insurance Law
  - Personal Injury Litigations – Defendants
- Rated AV Preeminent by Martindale–Hubbell
- Selected to the *Mid-South Super Lawyers* List, since 2013
- Recipient of the Arkansas Association of Defense Counsel Outstanding Defense Attorney Award, 2021–2022

## — KEY MATTERS

### Representatives Appeals

- *Jones Bros., Inc. v. Whitlock*, 366 Ark. 254 (2006)
- *Thornton v. Arkansas Valley Electric Cooperative Corp.*, 95 Ark. App. 151 (Ark. App. 2006)
- *CDI Contractors, LLC v. Allbrite Electrical Contractors, Inc.*, 780 So.2d 963 (Fla. 5th DCA 2001) and on second appeal 836 So.2d 1031 (Fla. 5th DCA 2003)
- *Stolze v. Arkansas Valley Electric Cooperative Corp.*, 354 Ark. 601 (2003)
- *Woodline Motor Freight v. Troutman Oil Company*, 327 Ark. 448 (1997)

### Representative Trials

- *Johnson v. First Electric Cooperative Corp.*, 2008. Saline County, Arkansas, defense verdict in a wrongful death case arising out of an electrocution
- *Cook v. Clarksville Refrigerated Lines*, 2006. Conway County, Arkansas, defense verdict in a wrongful death and personal injury case arising out of a commercial motor vehicle accident
- *DeWeese v. United Parcel Service*, 2004. Conway County, Arkansas, defense verdict in a wrongful death case arising out of a UPS package car accident and \$5,000,000 verdict in favor of UPS driver on his counterclaim against the estate for personal injuries

## — ASSOCIATIONS AND MEMBERSHIPS

- DRI (formerly Defense Research Institute)
- American Board of Trial Advocates, Advocate
- American Bar Association
- Arkansas Bar Association
- Pulaski County Bar Association

## — ADMISSIONS

- Arkansas, 1986
- United States Court of Appeals for the Eighth Circuit
- United States District Courts for the Eastern and Western Districts of Arkansas

## — RECOGNITION



## — REPRESENTATIVE CLIENTS

- ACE Insurance Company
- Arkansas Electric Cooperative, Inc.
- CDI Contractors, LLC
- CenterPoint Energy
- Cigna Insurance Company
- Entergy Arkansas, Inc.
- Federated Rural Electric Ins. Co.
- Liberty Mutual Insurance Company
- Progressive Northwestern Ins. Co.
- Safeco Insurance Company
- Summit Utilities
- The largest Class One freight railroad in the country
- United Parcel Service