

PRACTICE AREA

Appellate Law

We provide experienced appellate counsel in all types of civil cases.

The appellate lawyers at Friday, Eldredge & Clark use significant experience in appellate advocacy to get results. Knowledge of the appellate courts and their opinions, and careful development of issues over many different types of appeals, are among the strengths of our lawyers practicing in this area. Because we bring a special focus to possible appellate challenges at the motions and trial stages of the case, we can lay the foundation for review on appeal in the most complex cases. We can also help spot and frame issues for appeal even after judgment has been entered. Whether defending the trial-court result or challenging it, our appellate experience is unparalleled in the market.

Key Contacts



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Areas of Focus

Primary Party Appeals

Our team has successfully handled appeals before the Arkansas Supreme Court, the Arkansas Court of Appeals, the United States Court of Appeals for the Eighth Circuit, and other state and federal appellate courts.

Amicus Curiae, Friend of the Court

Our appellate lawyers are frequently called on to file amicus curiae, or friend of the court, briefs in matters pending before the Arkansas Supreme Court addressing significant, far-reaching legal issues. The federal district courts in Arkansas follow the practice of certifying Arkansas state-law questions to the Arkansas Supreme Court for resolution. If our firm is not directly involved in the federal court case, these certifications are an opportunity for us to present a client's views on important legal questions. We have done this on behalf of business and trade associations.

SUMMARY

- **Experienced Arkansas Appellate Lawyers:** We represent businesses and institutions in complex appeals before state and federal appellate courts, including Arkansas's highest courts.
- **Strategic Appellate Advocacy:** We identify issues early, preserve the record, and develop strategies to strengthen success on appeal.
- **Proven Results:** Our experience includes victories in class certification, constitutional disputes, insurance coverage, and complex commercial litigation.
- **Amicus & Policy Influence:** We file amicus briefs on behalf of businesses and trade groups in cases shaping Arkansas law.
- **Trial-Appellate Integration:** We collaborate with trial counsel to identify errors, frame arguments, and position cases for effective appellate review.

Related Practice Areas

- [Business, Corporate & Commercial](#)
- [Commercial Litigation & Regulatory](#)
- [Finance & Commercial Transactions](#)
- [Litigation](#)

Litigation Capabilities

Because the skills that make a good appellate lawyer are frequently critical at the trial level, our firm's appellate team has an active litigation practice. In trial courts and before arbitration panels, members of the group regularly brief and argue pre-trial and post-trial motions. We consider appellate issues at the start of each case, identifying possibilities for error or prejudice, laying the foundation for legal arguments and preserving issues for review on appeal. This exceptional combination of trial and appellate experience places an unusually balanced legal perspective at your service. It includes the ability of one of our lawyers to handle both the trial and the appeal, or to work as a member of your trial team and identify issues for appeal should the outcome of your case dictate one. Our appellate team can also examine your trial record and quickly grasp the key issues on which to base an appeal after judgment has been entered.

Meet the Team

James C. Baker

Kael K. Bowling

Katherine C. Campbell

Kevin A. Crass

Michael McCarty Harrison

Christopher Heller

Jamie Jones Walsworth

Martin A. Kasten

Kathy McCarroll

Marshall S. Ney

Robert S. Shafer

William A. Waddell Jr.

Kimberly D. Young

Experience

Hudson v. Murphy Oil USA, Inc., 2024 Ark. 179, 700 S.W.3d 891

Affirming summary judgment for the firm's client in a tax appeal brought by the Arkansas Department of Finance and Administration against a retail fuel station operator after it separated from its parent company in a \$650 million transaction.

Harvey v. Johnson, 2025 Ark. App. 393, 715 S.W.3d 930

Affirming summary judgment for the firm's client in a medical-malpractice case due to insufficient expert testimony to support the patient's claim that a hip-replacement surgery caused nerve palsy.

MMSC v. Washington Cnty., Arkansas, 2026 Ark. 56, 2026 WL 772480

Obtaining a discretionary review from the Arkansas Supreme Court which unanimously overturned an adverse Arkansas Court of Appeals decision in a conditional-use permit case.

Stephen Allen v. Nature Conservancy, et al., 168 F.4th 1092 (8th Cir. 2026)

Affirming summary judgment for the firm's clients in a wrongful death direct-action claim, successfully limiting the scope of lawsuits that plaintiffs may bring directly against insurers.

Rodney Hurdsman v. Viapath Technologies, Inc. et al., 2025 WL 1174606 (8th Cir. Apr. 23, 2025)

Affirming summary judgment in favor of the firm's clients in a 42 U.S.C. § 1983 lawsuit.

Richardson v. Omaha Sch. Dist., 957 F.3d 869 (8th Cir. 2020)

Affirming summary judgment for school district on IDEA appeal and deciding as matter of first impression that Arkansas' 90-day limitations period for IDEA compliance applied to parents' claim seeking prevailing-party attorneys' fees under IDEA

Recognition

