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Chambliss Attorneys Recognized in 2026 Editions of *The Best Lawyers in America*® and the *Best Lawyers: Ones to Watch*® in America

CHATTANOOGA, Tenn. (Aug. 21, 2025) — Chambliss, Bahner & Stophel, P.C. is pleased to congratulate 29 attorneys recognized in the [32nd edition of *The Best Lawyers in America*®](#). Among those acknowledged, three were named "Lawyer of the Year" for their respective practice areas in Chattanooga. In addition, four Chambliss attorneys were included in the sixth edition of the [Best Lawyers: Ones to Watch® in America](#).

The three Chambliss attorneys recognized as a [2026 Chattanooga "Lawyer of the Year"](#) include Stephen D. "Steve" Barham, James L. "Jim" Catanzaro, Jr., and Mark A. Cunningham.



[Stephen D. "Steve" Barham](#)



[James L. "Jim" Catanzaro, Jr.](#)



[Mark A. Cunningham](#)

Attorney Name**2026 "Lawyer of the Year", Chattanooga, Practice Area**[Stephen D. "Steve" Barham](#)

Bankruptcy and Creditor Debtor Rights / Insolvency and Reorganization Law

[James L. "Jim" Catanzaro, Jr.](#)

Nonprofit / Charities Law

[Mark A. Cunningham](#)

Mergers and Acquisitions

Each lawyer recognized represents clients in various industries across the nation on a wide range of matters. Barham focuses his practice on bankruptcy and creditor debtor rights and insolvency and reorganization law, Catanzaro specializes in nonprofit and charities law, and Cunningham concentrates on mergers and acquisitions.

The "Lawyer of the Year" recognition is given to one individual in each practice area and geographic region per edition. These individuals are selected based on peer feedback. Receiving this designation reflects a high level of respect among other leading lawyers in the same communities and practice areas for their abilities, professionalism, and integrity.

[Best Lawyers®](#) recognized 29 Chambliss attorneys in [The Best Lawyers in America® 2026](#):

Attorney Name**Practice Area**[Stephen D. Adams](#)

Patent Law

[William P. Aiken](#)

Corporate Law, Health Care Law, Mergers and Acquisitions Law

[Stephen D. "Steve" Barham](#)

Bankruptcy and Creditor Debtor Rights / Insolvency and Reorganization Law, Commercial Litigation, Litigation – Bankruptcy, Litigation – Health Care, Litigation – Regulatory Enforcement (SEC, Telecom, Energy)

[James L. "Jim" Catanzaro, Jr.](#)

Corporate Law, Health Care Law, Nonprofit / Charities Law

[Shelton Swafford Chambers](#)

Nonprofit / Charities Law

[Mark A. Cunningham](#)

Corporate Law, Health Care Law, Mergers and Acquisitions Law

[Cathy S. Dorvil](#)

Commercial Litigation, Litigation – Health Care

[Justin L. Furrow](#)

Litigation – Labor and Employment Law, Transportation Law

[Timothy M. "Tim" Gibbons](#)

Construction Law, Litigation – Construction

[Jeffrey G. "Jeff" Granillo](#)

Commercial Litigation, Product Liability Litigation – Defendants

[Douglas S. "Doug" Griswold](#)

Health Care Law

[Frederick L. "Rick" Hitchcock](#)

Energy Law

[J. Nelson Irvine](#)

Corporate Law, Mergers and Acquisitions Law, Nonprofit / Charities Law

[Richard T. "Rick" Hudson](#)

Real Estate Law

[Anthony A. "Bud" Jackson](#)

First Amendment Law, Litigation – First Amendment, Media Law, Product Liability Litigation – Defendants

[John G. Jackson](#)

Advertising Law, Litigation – Intellectual Property, Litigation – Patent

[Jeffrey W. Maddux](#)

Bankruptcy and Creditor Debtor Rights / Insolvency and Reorganization Law, Commercial Litigation, Litigation – Bankruptcy

[Laura McKinney](#)

Corporate Law

[Rebecca H. Miller](#)

Trusts and Estates

[Jason R. Mirmelstein](#)
[Harold L. "Hal" North, Jr.](#)

[Dana B. Perry](#)
[William H. Pickering](#)

[Jed Roebuck](#)
[Michael N. St. Charles](#)
[Michael J. Stewart](#)
[Mark Turner](#)

[Gregory D. "Greg" Willett](#)
[Kirby Waddell Yost](#)

Business Organizations (including LLCs and Partnerships)
Bankruptcy and Creditor Debtor Rights / Insolvency and Reorganization Law
Elder Law, Trusts and Estates
Commercial Litigation, Employment Law – Management, Litigation – ERISA, Litigation – Labor and Employment
Corporate Law
Corporate Law, Real Estate Law
Banking and Finance Law
Banking and Finance Law, Business Organizations (including LLCs and Partnerships), Mergers and Acquisitions Law, Real Estate Law, Securitization and Structured Finance Law
Trusts and Estates
Land Use and Zoning Law, Real Estate Law

"Our commitment to client service is the driving factor for what we do at the firm," said President and Managing Shareholder [Steve Barham](#). "Being recognized by our peers and clients reinforces the responsiveness, skill, and professionalism that we strive to deliver."

Individuals recognized in *Best Lawyers: Ones to Watch® in America* are noteworthy attorneys identified for their talent early in their careers. Those acknowledged typically have been in practice for five to nine years and have displayed outstanding professional excellence. This recognition is also based on peer review.

Best Lawyers® selected four Chambliss attorneys for the sixth edition of the [Best Lawyers: Ones to Watch® in America](#):

Attorney Name

[Courtney J. Keehan](#)
[Nicholas E. "Nick" Nester](#)
[Kathleen M. Siciliano](#)

[Logan C. Threadgill](#)

Practice Area

Corporate Law, Health Care Law, Mergers and Acquisitions Law
Tax Law, Trusts and Estates
Labor and Employment Law – Management, Litigation – Labor and Employment
Commercial Litigation, Construction Law, Litigation – Bankruptcy, Litigation – Construction

About Best Lawyers®

Best Lawyers is the oldest and most respected lawyer ranking service in the world. For over 40 years, Best Lawyers has assisted those in need of legal services to identify the lawyers best qualified to represent them in distant jurisdictions or unfamiliar specialties. Best Lawyers awards are published in leading local, regional, and national publications across the globe.

Lawyers nominated for consideration are voted on by currently recognized Best Lawyers working in the same practice area and located in the same geographic region. The awards and recognitions are based purely on the feedback received from these top lawyers. Those who receive high peer reviews undergo a thorough verification process to ensure they are currently

in private practice. Only then can these top lawyers be recognized by Best Lawyers. For the 2026 edition of *The Best Lawyers in America*®, more than 3 million confidential evaluations, which resulted in more than 80,000 leading lawyers being honored in the milestone 32nd edition. For more information on the methodology, please visit the Best Lawyers [website](#).

About Chambliss

Chambliss, founded in 1886, is a Chattanooga-based law firm serving local, regional, and national clients. With more than 135 employees, the firm offers a wide range of legal services, including business, cybersecurity and data privacy, construction and real estate, estate planning, finance, health care, intellectual property, labor and employment, litigation, and mergers and acquisitions. The firm serves as counsel for businesses, financial institutions, local governments, families, individuals, and nonprofit organizations. For more information about the firm, please visit www.chamblisslaw.com.

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