WILLIAM W. JACK

Shareholder

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616.458.6243 • wjack@shrr.com

PRACTICES

Alternative Dispute Resolution

Legal Malpractice and Professional Liability Defense

EDUCATION

Denison University (B.A., 1969)

University of Denver

George Washington University (J.D., with honors, 1973)

ATTORNEY

Bill joined Smith Haughey in 1975, and has twice served as the firm's CEO. For a number of years, he practiced in the areas of health law, medical malpractice defense, general litigation, and the defense of professional liability actions.

In the past 15 years, Bill has transitioned his practice and built a highly successful mediation/ alternative dispute resolution practice on his solid reputation as a seasoned trial attorney and devotion to the legal community. A certified facilitative mediator by the U.S. District Court, Western District of Michigan, he has served as mediator and case evaluator for hundreds of cases in the state and federal courts throughout Michigan. Representative cases include catastrophic personal injury, complex multi-party commercial litigation, and complex trademark and intellectual property matters.

Bill has trained lawyers in advocacy skills for individual law firms in several states and has also trained litigation counsel for a number of national insurance carriers. In addition, he is very active in both his profession and community, having held a number of elected positions and memberships in legal and community organizations.

ADMITTED

State Bar of Michigan, 1973

NOTEWORTHY

AV Peer Review Rated, Martindale-Hubbell

2017 Michigan Lawyers Weekly Michigan Lawyer of the Year

Recipient, Hillman Award, presented by the Hillman Advocacy Institute, 2011

Recipient, Inaugural 2021 Distinguished Mediator of the Year Award presented by the Negligence Section of the State Bar of Michigan.

Listed as GR Magazine "Top Lawyer" - Appellate Law; Mediation (2021); Arbitration; Mediation (2022)

Listed in The Best Lawyers in America® (2024) -- Legal Malpractice Law - Defendants, Mediation, Medical Malpractice Law - Defendants, Personal Injury Litigation - Defendants

Listed in The Best Lawyers in America®(1999-2022) -- Alternative Dispute Resolution, Legal Malpractice Law, Medical Malpractice Law & Personal Injury Litigation - Defendants, Mediation

Listed in The Best Lawyers in America® (2017-2022, 2024) -- Arbitration

Listed in The Best Lawyers in America® Lawyer of the Year" (2013) -- Personal Injury Litigation, Defendants

Listed in The Best Lawyers in America® "Lawyer of the Year" (2020, 2021) -- Arbitration

Listed in Leading Lawyers (2014) -- Medical Malpractice Defense Law, Personal Injury Defense Law: General, ADR Law: Personal Injury

Listed as a "Michigan Super Lawyer" (2006-2022) -- Alternative Dispute Resolution

Recipient, Michigan Defense Trial Counsel Excellence in Defense Award, 2002

Recipient, Respected Advocate Award, Presented by the Michigan Association for Justice, 2009

Named "Grand Rapids Legal Malpractice Law – Defendants Lawyer of the Year, "Best Lawyers, 2012

Author of four novels: Journey's End, The Dead End of Dying, An Untimely Reversal, Reaching Past Goodbye, and Lost and Alone

PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS

American Bar Association (Member, Sections on: Tort and Insurance Practice; Litigation)

Federal Bar Association (President, West Michigan Chapter, 1991)

State Bar of Michigan (Member, Sections on: Negligence Law; Law Practice Management)

Grand Rapids Bar Association (President, 1998-1999)

Member, American Board of Trial Advocates

American Health Lawyers Association

Fellow: American Bar Foundation

Fellow: Michigan State Bar Foundation

Michigan Defense Trial Counsel (President, 1987-1988; Member, Board of Directors, 1986)

Team Leader, University of Michigan Law School Trial Advocacy Course, 1986-1996

Faculty, National Institute for Trial Advocacy, 1985

COMMUNITY AFFILIATIONS

Board Member, Kids Food Basket

Vice President, Kent Medical Foundation

Planned Parenthood Centers of West Michigan, Board of Directors, 1995-2000

SH SMITH HAUGHEY
RICE & ROEGGE

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