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LEIGH KING FORSTMAN

PROFESSIONAL PROFILE

EDUCATION

Juris Doctorate, 1990, The University of Alabama School of Law
Bachelor of Arts, 1987, Auburn University
Major: Pre-Law/English
Minors: Russian Language and Piano/Vocal Performance

PROFESSIONAL ASSOCIATIONS

Martindale-Hubbell® *Bar Register of Preeminent Women Lawyers*™ (2011 Inaugural, 2012 and 2013 Editions)
AV Preeminent® Rating from Martindale-Hubbell® (highest possible rating in both legal ability and ethical standards) *Less than 5% of women lawyers have been recognized with an AV Preeminent® Rating
Charter Fellow and Senior Fellow, Litigation Counsel of America (trial lawyer honorary recognizing effectiveness and accomplishment in litigation and superior ethical reputation)
Appointed by Alabama Supreme Court to Standing Committee on Alabama Rules of Appellate Procedure (2010-2024)
Appointed by Alabama State Bar President to The Alabama Lawyer Board of Editors Committee (2017-2019)
Fellow, Birmingham Bar Foundation (2018) (demonstrated spirit of excellence in field of practice, uncompromising adherence to ethical standards and mores, exceptional skills to achieve optimal results for those served, and commitment to enhance and enrich the general prestige of the profession)
America's Top 100 Attorneys® (Alabama) Lifetime Achievement Award
The Best Lawyers in America© for Product Liability Litigation, Personal Injury Litigation and Medical Malpractice Law - Plaintiffs (2021)
U.S. News & World Report - Best Lawyers® "Best Law Firms" (2020-2021)
The National Trial Lawyers: Top 100 Trial Lawyers (2013-2021)
America's Top 100 High Stakes Litigators® (2017-2021)
America's Top 100 Medical Malpractice Litigators® (2021-2022)
America's Top 100 Personal Injury Attorneys® (2019-2022)
10 Best Attorneys for Client Satisfaction (Alabama), American Institute of Personal Injury Attorneys (2016-2021)
B-Metro's Top Women Lawyers (2016-2020) and Top Flight Attorneys (2017-2019)
Admitted to Practice, Alabama and Tennessee
Member, Alabama State Bar
Executive Committee, Board of Governors, Seminar Chair, Alabama Association for Justice
Founding Chair, Women Trial Lawyer Caucus of the Alabama Association for Justice (founded in 2002)
Former Member, American Association for Justice
Former Board Member, Alabama State Bar Women's Section (Newsletter Editor and Birmingham Women Lawyers Representative)
Past Chair, Women Lawyers Section of the Birmingham Bar Association (Chair 2016-2017, Chair-Elect, Treasurer, Liaison to Alabama State Bar Women's Section, Projects Committee Co-Chair; Distinguished Service Award Recipient 2014 and 2015)

Member, Executive Committee of the Birmingham Bar Association (2016-2017); Prior Committees: Long Range Planning (Chair), Community Education, Grievance (multiple terms), Public Relations, Speakers Bureau, Membership, and Quality of Life; Young Lawyers Section

Member and Speaker, Steering Committee for the Centennial Celebration of Women's Suffrage (2019-2020)

Faculty, American Association for Justice Winter Convention, Orlando, Florida – 2004

Faculty, Cumberland Continuing Legal Education Seminar – 1992, 1995, 1997 and 2004

Faculty, Alabama Association for Justice Continuing Legal Education Seminar – 1997, 2001, 2003, 2004, 2007, 2011, 2016 and 2020

Faculty, Pittman, Dutton & Hellums, P.C. Firm Continuing Legal Education Seminar – 2008 and 2009

Faculty, Birmingham Bar Association Continuing Legal Education Seminar – 1996 and 2020

Faculty, Women Lawyers Section of the Birmingham Bar Association Continuing Legal Education Seminar – 2017, 2018 and 2020

Faculty, Samford University Paralegal Studies – 2011

Faculty, Dollywood Foundation International Conference, Pigeon Forge, Tennessee – 2011

Faculty, National Literacy Coalition Conference, Houston, Texas – 2011

Speaker, Birmingham City Council Economic Development Summit – 2012 and 2013

Member and Public Relations Committee Co-Chair, The Women's Network

Former Member, National Association of Female Executives

Outstanding Young Women of America

International Who's Who of Professionals

Life Member, The National Registry of Who's Who

President, President-Elect, Directory Chair, Network Birmingham

2002 Woman of the Year Award and 2008 Community Service Award, Network Birmingham

EMPLOYMENT

Founding Member: September 2017 – Present King Forstman Law LLC

Attorney/Partner: February 1998 – August 2017 Pittman, Dutton & Hellums, P.C.
February 1992 – February 1998 Lucas, Alvis & Wash, P.C.

Handle all aspects of civil litigation in the areas of product liability, trucking accidents, wrongful death, injuries to children, industrial accidents, motor vehicle collisions, premises liability, liquor liability, professional negligence, consumer fraud, employment law and asbestos exposure cases, including mediations, arbitrations, settlement negotiations and trials.

Appellate Attorney: July 1990 – February 1992 Emond & Vines Attorneys

Handled the firm's entire appellate practice to the Alabama Supreme Court, Alabama Court of Civil Appeals and the United States Court of Appeals for the Eleventh Circuit. Also prepared trial briefs and summary judgment opposition briefs for approximately twelve litigators.

Intern: June 1987 – July 1987 United States Senator Howell T. Heflin

Responded to constituent correspondence about various issues affecting Alabama citizens.

CIVIC

President, Leadership Vestavia Hills (Class of 2019); Vice President/President-Elect; Board Member (2019-2022); Projects Committee (2019-2020); Scholarship Committee (2019-2020); Emcee for CLA Awards (2020)

Graduate, Leadership Birmingham (Class of 2003); Class Representative to Members Council (2016-2022)

Graduate, JLB Leadership Institute (2008)

Past President, Junior League of Birmingham (nearly 2,600 members, fourth largest internationally):

- Chair of the Beeson Community Fund (2012-2013)
- President (2011-2012)
- President-Elect (2010-2011)
- Fund Development Vice President (2009-2010)
- Director of Donor Relations and Corporate Donors Chair (2008-2009)
- Chair, JLB Leadership Institute (2007-2008)
- Planning Vice President (2006-2007)
- President's Society Chair (2005-2006)
- Newsheet* Editor (2004-2005)
- Newsheet* Assistant Editor (2003-2004)
- Newsheet* Staff Writer (2002-2003)
- Nonprofit Resource Center Attorney On Call (2001-2002)

Canterbury United Methodist Church:

Chair of Trustees and Foundation Board (2021), Co-Chair (2020); Member (2019-2022)
Finance Committee (2010-2012) (overseeing annual budget and ongoing capital campaigns)
Trustee (2002-2005)
Former Member, Administrative Board/Church Council
Former Member, Executive Committee
Former Co-Chair, Stewardship Campaign
Former Chair, Worship Committee
Former Chair, Music Committee
Former Member, Canterbury United Methodist Church Choir
Sunday School Teacher
Small Groups and Lenten Bible Study Leader, Teacher and Facilitator
Board of Directors and former Governance Committee Chair, Pathways (six year term ending December 2009)
Advisory Board, Birmingham Children's Choir
Co-Editor, *Under the Brush Arbor*, 135-year history of Canterbury United Methodist Church
Member, Susan G. Komen Breast Cancer Foundation Speakers Bureau
Performer, Birmingham Bar Association Cabaret, benefiting Children's Hospital
Corporate Sponsor Committee, GALA XVI, Birmingham Southern College
Member, Junior Patrons, benefiting Birmingham Museum of Art
Lead Role in "Oklahoma!" – Canterbury Players, Birmingham, Alabama (1993)
Choreographer for "The King and I" – Canterbury Players, Birmingham, Alabama (1994)
Volunteer, Festival of Trees, benefiting Children's Hospital
Judge, Jefferson County and Shelby County Junior Miss Scholarship Program
Activities Advisor, Alpha Gamma Delta (UAB Chapter)

HONORS AND ACTIVITIES

Law School

Vice Chairperson (Education), John A. Campbell Moot Court Board, 1989-1990
John A. Campbell Moot Court Competition – Quarter Finalist, 1989
Jessup International Moot Court Team – Manager, 1989-1990
Recognized among Outstanding Oral Advocates
First Year Moot Court Program, 1988
Bench & Bar Legal Honor Society
Law and Psychology Review
ATLA Trial Competition (Witness), 1989
ATLA – Student Member
Phi Alpha Delta International Legal Fraternity
Student Bar Association

Undergraduate

Jeffrey Frazier Stein Award (Most Outstanding Sophomore Student on the Auburn University campus)
Squires – President (Ten Most Outstanding Freshmen)
Lambda Sigma (Sophomore Honorary)
Chapter Editor, Junior Advisor, Senior Advisor
Talons (Junior Honorary)
Omicron Delta Kappa (Junior/Senior Leadership Honorary)
Mortar Board (Senior Honorary)
Pi Lambda Sigma (Pre-Law Honorary)
Sigma Tau Delta (English Honorary)
Delta Omicron (Female Music Honorary)
Who's Who Among American Colleges and Universities
Recipient Waite Scholarship – Miss Alabama Program
Angel Flight – Pledge Class President, Little Major, Little Colonel
Alpha Gamma Delta Sorority – Recipient of four Honor Awards
Phi Gamma Delta Little Sister
Glomerata – Assistant Features Editor
Fine Arts Council
Auburn University Singers and Auburn University Concert Choir

Auburn Choral Society
“West Side Story” – Production Pianist
Auburn United Methodist Church Choir
Student Government Association
AU Student Pre-College Counselor
Russian Club

High School

Anchor Club – President and Vice President
National Honor Society – Secretary, attended State Convention
Mu Alpha Theta (Math Honorary)
Miss Auburn High School
Annual Staff
Student Council
Interclub Council
Junior Civitan – Delegate to State Convention
“A” Band – First Chair Clarinetist and Pep Band
Majorette – Head Majorette
AHS Chorus – Soloist and Pianist
Girl’s State Nominee
Key Club Sweetheart, attended State Key Club Convention
Lee County Junior Miss – Top 10 State Finalist
National Association of Teachers of Singing Voice Competition – Southeast Regional Winner
Auburn Arts Association - Charter Member

PUBLICATIONS

“Self-Advocacy: Petitioning the Court for a Writ of Habeas Corpus in Alabama,” *Law and Psychology Review*, Vol. 14, Spring 1990.
“Law After Medtronic: State Law Product Liability Claims,” *Leader’s Product Liability Law and Strategy*, Vol. XV, No. 2, August 1996.
“State Law Product Liability Claims Prevail Over Preemption,” *Alabama Trial Lawyers Journal*, Vol. 16, No. 4, Fall 1996.
“Summary Judgment Rule 56: Practical Advice about Timing and Striking,” *Alabama Association for Justice Journal*, Vol. 32, No. 3, Fall 2012.
“The Perils of the Unknown Bankruptcy,” *Alabama Association for Justice Journal*, Vol. 29, No. 2, Fall 2009.
“The Evolution of Lawyer Time Management,” *Addendum*, the official digital newsletter of the Alabama State Bar, June 2018.
“Centennial Celebration of Women’s Suffrage,” presented throughout Alabama during 2019-2020.
“My Prayer for Baby Forstman” © 2006 Leigh King Forstman
“PATHWAYS: A Woman’s Way Home,” *Junior League of Birmingham Newsheet*, Vol. 77, No. 2, Spring 2005.
“Alabama Child Caring Foundation: Bringing Their World Into Focus,” *Junior League of Birmingham Newsheet*, Vol. 77, No. 2, Spring 2005.
“Impacting Our Community By Building Partnerships For A Better Birmingham,” *Junior League of Birmingham Newsheet*, Vol. 77, No. 1, Fall 2004.
“Sustainer Spotlight: Barbara Finch,” *Junior League of Birmingham Newsheet*, Vol. 76, No. 3, Summer 2004.
“Community Placement Spotlight: New Placement Reinforces Pawsitive Living,” *Junior League of Birmingham Newsheet*, Vol. 76, No. 1, Fall 2003.
“Active Spotlight: Kelly Roberts Sorrells,” *Junior League of Birmingham Newsheet*, Vol. 75, No. 3, Summer 2003.
“Project Spotlight: Girls, Inc.,” *Junior League of Birmingham Newsheet*, Vol. 75, No. 2, Spring 2003.
“Sustainer Spotlight: Forsyth Sellers Donald,” *Junior League of Birmingham Newsheet*, Vol. 75, No. 1, Fall 2002.
“Southern Accents Presents Alexandra Stoddard,” *Junior League of Birmingham Newsheet*, Vol. 75, No. 1, Fall 2002.

PERSONAL

Married to Bryan Keith Forstman and Mother of Hartwell King Forstman
Lived in Auburn, Tuscaloosa, Mountain Brook, Homewood, Hoover and Vestavia Hills, Alabama and Washington, D.C.