



MELODIE  
FREEMAN-BURNEY

**Partner**

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Melodie Freeman-Burney is a Director in the firm's Litigation Section who served on the firm's Executive Committee for fourteen years. She also served for over a decade as Chair of the firm's Information Technology Committee. She has over thirty-five years of experience in a broad range of civil litigation matters, including commercial litigation, complex tort and product liability claims, wrongful death lawsuits, class actions, shareholder's derivative suits, construction disputes, and energy related cases. She has extensive experience in insurance advice and litigation, specifically focusing on insurance coverage disputes and indemnity obligations. She has assisted in creating captive insurance companies under Oklahoma law. She has represented rental car companies in nation-wide tort, contract, and insurance-related litigation, and has developed an accomplished specialty in propane litigation. Her practice also includes both state and federal appellate work.

Ms. Freeman-Burney has wide-ranging experience in insurance coverage and claims disputes and resulting alternative dispute resolution and litigation for both policyholders and select insurance carriers. Her representation embraces an extensive catalogue of first and third party insurance policies, including personal, professional, and commercial insurance products that provide primary, excess, surplus, and umbrella coverages. She has been engaged in coverage disputes arising under, *inter alia*, commercial general liability, personal and commercial property and casualty, environmental liability, directors and officers liability, fiduciary liability, employment practices liability, business and personal auto, garage keepers liability, tavern owners liability, inland marine, life, health, homeowners, construction-contractor (including builders risk), and errors and omissions insurance coverages, plus various types of bonds, including payment, performance, and fidelity bonds. Her policyholder clients include companies in the energy, banking, rental car, construction, and manufacturing industries. She

**PRACTICES**

- Appellate Litigation
- Class Actions
- Commercial Litigation
- Construction Litigation
- Energy
- Insurance
- Insurance and Personal Injury Defense Litigation
- Insurance Coverage and Bad Faith Litigation
- Insurance Coverage, Claims Representation and Risk Management Counseling
- Insurance Defense / Personal Injury Litigation
- Litigation and Alternative Dispute Resolution
- Product Liability Litigation
- Propane and Natural Gas Litigation
- Rental Car Industry Litigation

## Melodie Freeman-Burney

has also served as coverage counsel in numerous large class action and significant litigation matters for NYSE listed corporations. She provides coverage representation in regard to major personal injury and property damage claims, including business interruption claims and bad faith claims. Additionally, she regularly provides risk management and insurance consultation and advice to businesses of all sizes.

Ms. Freeman-Burney also has substantial experience defending rental car drivers and rental car companies in personal injury and product liability litigation across the nation. She is uniquely familiar with various states' rules regarding rental car liability and has litigated significant personal injury and wrongful death cases involving rental vehicles. She is also conversant regarding states' interpretations of primary liability, uninsured motorist, and supplemental liability policies in the rental vehicle context. She has worked with major rental car companies to provide contract advice as well as risk management and insurance consultation, including the drafting of rental agreements, self-insurance, fronting policies, and insurance brochures.

Since 1989, in addition to her general litigation and insurance coverage practice, Ms. Freeman-Burney has represented various sectors of the U.S. propane industry, including retailers, tank manufacturers, and industry groups, in defending claims arising from catastrophic events. She is well-versed in the technical and legal issues involved in propane litigation and has a proven track record of positive results for clients.

### Honors & Recognitions

American Inns of Court Former Member

Author of "Jurisdiction Under the Bankruptcy Amendments of 1984: Summing Up the Factors," 22 Tulsa Law Journal 167 (1986)

Oklahoma Baptist University Board of Trustees Former Member

Oklahoma Bar Association Outstanding Law Student Co-recipient 1988

Order of the Curule Chair

Scribes Honorable Member

Transportation and  
Logistics Litigation

### INDUSTRIES

Construction

Energy

Insurance

Manufacturing &  
Distribution

Propane

Rental Car

Retail

Transportation and  
Logistics

### EDUCATION

University of Tulsa  
College of Law, J.D. *with  
highest honors*, 1988

Oklahoma Baptist  
University, B.A., *magna  
cum laude*, with honors,  
1976

### ADMISSIONS

Oklahoma - 1988

U.S. District Court, E.D. of  
Oklahoma - 1988

U.S. District Court, N.D.  
of Oklahoma - 1988

U.S. District Court, W.D.  
of Oklahoma - 1988

U.S. District Court, E.D. of  
Arkansas - 2010

U.S. District Court, W.D.  
of Arkansas - 2010

U.S. Court of Appeals,  
Tenth Circuit - 1988

## Melodie Freeman-Burney

Tulsa Law Journal Articles Editor 1987 - 1988 and Member 1986 - 1987

Ten American Jurisprudence (Cali) Awards

University of Tulsa College of Law Alumni Association Board of Directors

- Co-Chair of Library & Information Services Committee, 2003-2004
- Co-Chair of Editorial Advisory Board, 2006-2007

Inaugural Member and Continuing Member of the Martindale-Hubble Bar Register of Preeminent Women Lawyers (2011-present)

Member of Executive Committee of Conner & Winters, LLP, 2008 - 2022

Listed in *The Best Lawyers in America*® (2013 - current)

Admitted *pro hac vice* in many state and federal courts

### Community & Professional

Tulsa County Bar Association

Oklahoma Bar Association

American Bar Association

Oklahoma Bar Association Legal Ethics Committee

Oklahoma Bar Association Unauthorized Practice of Law Committee

### News

58 Conner & Winters Lawyers Recognized in 2026 Edition of *The Best Lawyers in America*®

08.29.2025

30th Edition of Best Lawyers® Recognizes 67 Attorneys from Conner & Winters

08.18.2023

Peers Rank Conner & Winters Lawyers as the Best in their Field

09.16.2020

## Melodie Freeman-Burney

Conner & Winters Announces New Leadership Team  
09.11.2019

Conner & Winters Announces Leadership Team  
01.08.2019

Congratulations to the 59 lawyers from Conner & Winters who were recognized in The Best Lawyers in America© 2019.  
08.15.2018

58 Conner & Winters Attorneys Named to 2018 Best Lawyers in America List  
08.15.2017

Conner & Winters Announces Leadership Team  
07.25.2017

### **Alerts & Publications**

59 Conner & Winters Attorneys Recognized by Best Lawyers in America  
08.16.2019