



ROBERT D. JAMES

Partner

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Rob James is a trial litigator admitted to practice in Oklahoma and Arkansas. Rob litigates tort, insurance, contract and commercial matters in a broad range of contexts, including hospital, physician, nursing home, and other health care liability; attorney and accountant liability, abuse and molestation liability; trucking and other vehicular accidents; product liability, including vehicles, consumer products and asbestos and talc litigation; real estate and construction torts; insurance bad faith claims; premises liability; environmental/toxic tort claims; wrongful death; and general personal injury.

Rob also provides insurance and risk management consultation to insurance companies and other business insureds and self-insured companies, including rental car companies. He serves as a mediator in a wide range of types of claims. Rob also represents corporate and non-profit taxpayers in ad valorem tax matters, including appeals.

Rob serves as Chairman of the Firm's Litigation Practice Group and as the Firm's Assistant General Counsel/Risk Manager. He is a Member of the Federation of Defense and Corporate Counsel and serves on the Board of Directors of the Oklahoma Association of Defense Counsel. He is recognized by *Best Lawyers in America*[®] in Commercial Litigation, Insurance Law, Litigation-Insurance and Personal Injury Litigation-Defendants. He serves on the Board of Palmer Continuum of Care, Inc., which provides quality, compassionate treatment for substance abuse and addiction and residential care for adolescents, women and their families.

PRACTICES

- Commercial Litigation
- Construction
- 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
- Product Liability Litigation
- Rental Car Industry Litigation

INDUSTRIES

- Construction
- Health Care
- Insurance
- Manufacturing & Distribution
- Rental Car

Honors & Recognitions

Federation of Defense and Corporate Counsel Member

Oklahoma Association of Defense Counsel Member (Board of Directors Member)

Advanced Mediation Certification- Straus Institute for Dispute Resolution at Pepperdine University Law School

Oklahoma Supreme Court Certified Mediator

Tulsa Early Settlement Mediation Panel

Board of Advocates, University of Arkansas

Chancellor's List and Dean's List, University of Arkansas and University of Arkansas School of Law

National Moot Court Team (Best Brief, 3rd Overall), University of Arkansas School of Law

Order of the Barristers

Regional Negotiation Team, University of Arkansas 1994

Community & Professional

Tulsa County Bar Association Member

Arkansas Bar Association Member

Oklahoma Bar Association Member

American Bar Association Member (Litigation, Torts and Insurance, Alternative Dispute Resolution)

Oklahoma and Tulsa County Bar Alternative Dispute Resolution Section Member

Defense Research Institute Member

Retail

Transportation and Logistics

EDUCATION

University of Arkansas, J.D., 1995; B.S.B.A., 1992

ADMISSIONS

Arkansas - 1996

Oklahoma - 1995

U.S. District Court, Eastern and Western Districts of Arkansas - 2004

U.S. District Court, E.D. of Oklahoma - 1996

U.S. District Court, N.D. of Oklahoma - 1996

U.S. District Court, W.D. of Oklahoma - 1996

U.S. Court of Appeals, Third Circuit - 2004

U.S. Court of Appeals, Eighth Circuit - 2004

U.S. Court of Appeals, Tenth Circuit - 1996

U.S. Supreme Court - 2001

Robert D. James

University of Arkansas Foundation Member

Booker T. Washington High School Swim Booster Board Member and Benefactor

Booker T. Washington High School Foundation Member and Benefactor

USA Cycling Competitive Racer

USA Triathlon Competitive Racer

Guitar Aficionado

Married to Melanie with sons Noah ('99) and Luke ('01)

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