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LAWYER PROFILE PAGE



## Lucian T. Pera

### Partner

Litigation

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Memphis Partner Lucian T. Pera joined Adams and Reese in 2006 and focuses his practice on commercial litigation, media law, and legal ethics work. Lucian is a past Treasurer of the American Bar Association and a future President of the Tennessee Bar Association.

Lucian's civil litigation practice has ranged widely and includes a variety of commercial, personal injury and intellectual property litigation, as well as numerous state and federal appeals.

Lucian's extensive bar association work in the field of legal ethics and professional responsibility has resulted in local Tennessee, and national practice and leadership. He represents and advises attorneys, law firms, their clients, and businesses who deal with lawyers about all aspects of the law. Recent assignments have included defense of lawyers in disciplinary investigation, counseling clients with disciplinary and other claims against lawyers, advising law firms about loss prevention and claims, and defending and prosecuting motions to disqualify lawyers or for sanctions.

Lucian has represented many media outlets in all sorts of matters, ranging from claims and lawsuits for defamation or invasion of privacy to access to courtrooms, public records and meetings of government bodies. He has litigated several key media access cases, including a Tennessee Supreme Court case extending access under the Tennessee Public Records Act to records of private companies that are the "functional equivalent" of government (Memphis Publishing Co. v. Cherokee Children & Family Services, Inc., 87 S.W.3d 67 (Tenn. 2002)) and expressly confirming the constitutional right of public and press access to attend civil trials (King v. Jowers, 12 S.W. 3d 410 (Tenn. 1999)).

Other significant accomplishments include:

- Active involved in the most recent complete revision of the American Bar Association Model Rules of Professional Conduct, which are now the model for the lawyer ethics rules in virtually every American jurisdiction, serving as the youngest member of the ABA "Ethics 2000" Commission. Since his Ethics 2000 experience, Lucian has been deeply involved in the ABA House of Delegates' consideration of every other significant change to the ABA Model Rules. He currently chairs the governing committee of the ABA Center for Professional Responsibility, the home of the ABA's standing

### RELATED INFORMATION

- Main Bio
- Articles / Publications
- Press Releases
- Media Mentions
- Seminars
- Newsletters / Alerts
- Announcements

### PRACTICE AREAS

- Litigation
- Commercial Dispute Resolution
- Ethics
- First Amendment / Media Law
- Lawyer Professional Liability
- Appellate

### INDUSTRIES

- Media

### EDUCATION

- Princeton University, A.B., 1982
- Vanderbilt University School of Law, J.D., 1985

### BAR ADMISSIONS

- Tennessee

### COURT ADMISSIONS

- Tennessee
- United States District Court for the Western District of Tennessee
- United States District Court for the Middle District of Tennessee
- United States District Court for the Eastern District of Arkansas
- United States Court of Appeals for the Sixth Circuit
- United States Court of Appeals for the Second Circuit

### PROFESSIONAL

### MEMBERSHIPS / AFFILIATIONS

- ethics, discipline, and professionalism committees.
- Served as ABA Treasurer (2011-2014), including service on the ABA Board of Governors and Executive Committee. Prior service on the ABA Board of Governors as a young lawyer from 1994-1997, including chairing its Finance Committee and serving on its Executive Committee. Membership in the ABA House of Delegates, primarily representing the TBA, for all but three years since 1991. View video of his August 2013, February 2014, and August 2014 reports to the ABA House of Delegates.
- Served as ABA Treasurer (2011-2014), including service on the ABA Board of Governors and Executive Committee. Prior service on the ABA Board of Governors as a young lawyer from 1994-1997, including chairing its Finance Committee and serving on its Executive Committee. Membership in the ABA House of Delegates, primarily representing the TBA, for all but three years since 1991. View video of his August 2013, February 2014, and August 2014 reports to the ABA House of Delegates.
- Served as President of the Association of Professional Responsibility Lawyers (APRL), the national membership organization of lawyers who work in the legal ethics arena.
- Leadership of the Tennessee Bar Association ethics committee from 1995 through 2009, including spearheading the TBA's petitions to the Tennessee Supreme Court seeking ethics rules revisions. These included the TBA's successful petition that led to Tennessee adopting in 2002 its own version of the ABA Model Rules of Professional Conduct to replace Tennessee's prior ethics rules, which had been in place since 1970.
- Active involvement in the Media Law Resource Center, the national organization of media entities and their lawyers, including as a contributor to several of its annual national surveys on media law. He also currently serves as Vice President of the Tennessee Coalition for Open Government, an alliance of media and citizen groups advocating for transparency in government at all levels.
- Assisted in creation of the TBA and ABA websites and chairing the ABA Standing Committee on Technology and Information Systems.
- Serves as Vice President of the Tennessee Bar Association and will become President in June 2017.
- Lucian regularly provides expert witness testimony in matters concerning legal ethics, professional responsibility and the standard of care for lawyers and law firms. He also advises businesses seeking to do business with lawyers about how they may do so legally and ethically.

Lucian also writes and speaks frequently, both nationally and in Tennessee, on legal ethics and professional responsibility and media law. In addition, he routinely conducts presentations and seminars for national audiences.

- American Bar Association - Former Treasurer (2011-2014); Member of Board of Governors, Executive Committee; House of Delegates; Task Force on the Financing of Legal Education
- Tennessee Bar Association, Vice President, President Elect (2016), President (2017)
- Media Law Resource Center
- Memphis Bar Foundation - Fellow; Member, Board of Directors
- Miller-Becker Institute for Professional Responsibility - Advisory Board
- Memphis Bar Association
- Association of Professional Responsibility Lawyers - Past President
- American Law Institute - Fellow
- Tennessee Bar Foundation, Fellow
- College of Law Practice Management, Fellow
- Tennessee Coalition for Open Government, Vice President; Member, Board of Directors
- American Bar Endowment, Member, Board of Directors
- American Bar Retirement Funds, Liaison to Board of Directors

#### OTHER DISTINCTIONS

- Best of the Bar, *Memphis Business Journal*, 2017
- AV® Peer Review Rated by Martindale-Hubbell
- Chambers USA - Litigation: General Commercial
- Best Lawyers® - Commercial Litigation, Ethics and Professional Responsibility Law, First Amendment Law, Health Care Law, Legal Malpractice Law (Defendants/Plaintiffs), Litigation - First Amendment, Media Law
- Best Lawyers® Lawyer of the Year – Litigation - First Amendment Law, 2012
- Mid-South Super Lawyers® - Business Litigation
- Best of the Bar - *Nashville Business Journal*
- "Top Rated Lawyer in Commercial Litigation" - *American Lawyer Media*, Martindale-Hubbell™, 2013
- Best 150 Lawyers in Tennessee - *BusinessTN Magazine*
- The Power Players - Business

- Litigation - *Memphis Business Quarterly Magazine*, 2010-2015
- Who's Who in American Law 1992-Present
- Justice Joseph W. Henry Award for Outstanding Legal Writing 1992
- Sam A. Myar, Jr. Memorial Award - Memphis Bar Association 1997
- President's Award - Tennessee Bar Association 2000, 2003

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