



harman claytor corrigan wellman
THE CIVIL LITIGATION FIRM

Stephen J. McDonald

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Stephen focuses his practice on defending healthcare providers and licensed professionals in medical malpractice and professional liability matters. He represents healthcare facilities, physicians, nurses, and other medical professionals in litigation involving allegations of professional negligence and high-exposure tort claims. Stephen has represented clients in Circuit Courts throughout the Commonwealth of Virginia and in administrative proceedings before the Virginia Department of Health Professions. In addition to his healthcare practice, he also defends clients in automobile, transportation, and premises liability matters.

Stephen brings a diverse background of litigation, regulatory law, and public service to his practice. He works closely with clients at every stage of litigation, from early investigation and case assessment through discovery, expert development, dispositive motions, and trial. Recognizing the significant risk and professional implications that accompany allegations of negligence against healthcare providers, Stephen focuses on developing practical and effective defense strategies tailored to protect his clients' interests. He places a strong emphasis on communication and collaboration, ensuring clients remain informed and actively engaged throughout the life of their case.

Stephen grew up in Ireland and earned his bachelor's degree in English from Queen's University Belfast before moving to the United States in 2010. He later earned his Juris Doctor, *magna cum laude*, from the Charleston School of Law, where he served as Senior Articles Editor of the *Charleston Law Review*.

Following law school, Stephen joined the U.S. Army Judge Advocate General's Corps, where he prosecuted misdemeanor and felony offenses in military courts and advised military commanders on criminal, administrative, and operational legal matters. He also served as Special Victim Counsel representing victims of domestic violence and sexual assault throughout investigations and courts-martial proceedings. Stephen continues to serve in the U.S. Army Reserve as a Judge Advocate.

Prior to joining Harman Claytor, Stephen served as corporate counsel for skilled nursing facilities and healthcare providers and later worked as an Attorney Advisor with the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services in Washington, D.C., supporting Administrative Law Judges in the Departmental Appeals Board.



Assistant: Maxine Tuttle
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Outside of his practice, Stephen enjoys spending time with his wife and three children and working on his small farm where he raises goats, chickens, and four dogs.

Professional Activities & Honors

- Defense Research Institute
- Virginia Association of Defense Attorneys
- Henrico County Bar Association
- Richmond Bar Association
- DC Bar Association

Publications

- Note, *Where Does It Hurt? The Practice of Telemedicine Beyond State Lines and Personal Liability*, 11.3 Charleston L. Rev. 553 (2017).

Education

- Queen's University, Belfast, N. Ireland, B.A. (2008)
- Charleston School of Law, J.D., *magna cum laude* (2018)

Bar & Court Admissions

- Virginia State Bar
- District of Columbia Bar