

William P. Aiken

Shareholder



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I have a genuine commitment to understanding our clients' businesses and goals and to providing the highest quality legal services to assist in achieving those goals.

Bill Aiken has been counseling companies and executives for over 40 years on business and commercial transactions. With his extensive experience, Bill is able to promptly and thoroughly respond to his clients' evolving needs. He regularly counsels clients in manufacturing, distribution, health care, chemical, food and beverage, and trucking and logistics with respect to mergers and acquisitions, financing, contracts, organization structuring and planning, corporate governance, and risk management. Bill has handled matters of all sizes including contracts and transactions of \$200 million or more. Bill is known for his availability and responsiveness to clients. He understands the importance of listening and providing them with advice based on their needs.

Experience

Represented Drake Software, a leading tax preparation software provider headquartered in North Carolina, in connection with a significant investment in the company by Cinven, an international private equity firm

Represented sellers and buyers in sales and purchases of assets and equity ranging from \$30 million to \$1 billion, including acquisitions of businesses in bankruptcy

Represented Coca-Cola Bottling Works of Tullahoma in selling its family-owned business to Reyes Holdings, L.L.C, a Coca-Cola bottler and craft beer distributor

Represented chemical company in the sale of its business for \$30 million

Services

- Business
- Capital Equipment and Materials
- Chambliss Startup Group
- Charitable and Public Purpose Organizations
- Commercial Contracts
- Construction and Design
- Corporate Governance and Risk Management
- Cybersecurity and Data Privacy
- Financial Services
- Health Care
- License and Manufacturing Agreements
- Mergers and Acquisitions
- Physician Practices
- Private Equity and Securities
- Trade Regulation and Product Distribution

Industries

- Automotive
- Charitable and Public Purpose Organizations
- Chemical
- Construction
- Food and Beverage
- Health Care
- Manufacturing

Represented automotive distributor in the sale of its business for \$90 million

Represented food and beverage company in the acquisition of a related food business for \$25 million

Represented a global manufacturer of entrance systems in acquisition of similar U.S. businesses

Represented clients, such as Volkswagen Group of America and Wacker Chemical, in connection with the construction and equipping of large manufacturing facilities, including contract negotiation, financing, entity organization, and general business matters

Represented several companies in negotiating construction and supply contracts in excess of \$250 million, and resolving contract disputes

Represented investment entities in their organization, raising, and investment of capital

Represented physician groups in structuring employment and equity agreements, practice sales and business ventures, and contracts with hospitals and providers

Associations

Professional

- American Health Law Association
- Tennessee Automotive Manufacturers Association
- German American Chambers of Commerce, Tennessee Chapter

Bar Associations

- American, Tennessee, and Chattanooga Bar Foundations, Fellow
- Tennessee Bar Association, Business and Health Law Sections; Legal Opinion Committee of Business Law and Real Estate Sections, 2009-2011
- American Bar Association, Business Law Section, Negotiated Acquisitions and Legal Opinions Committees; Health Care Law Section
- Chattanooga Bar Association, Harry Weill Zealous Practice of Law Award, 2014

Pro Bono Work

- Indigent/low income individuals – Health care, social security, employment, disability, domestic

Noteworthy

- *Best Lawyers in America*, Corporate, Mergers & Acquisitions, and Health Care Law

- Startups and Emerging Companies
- Transportation and Logistics

Admissions

- Tennessee

Education

- J.D., Vanderbilt University Law School, 1975
- B.A., The University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, 1972

- *BTI Client Service All-Stars in Business*, The BTI Consulting Group, and Super All Star in 2017 and 2019
- *Mid-South Super Lawyers*, Business/Corporate, 2010-2012, 2019-2022
- Martindale-Hubbell® AV® Preeminent™ Peer Review Rated
- Avvo 10.0 Rating
- Law Clerk to Hon. Frank Gray, Jr., Chief Judge, U.S. District Court, Middle District of Tennessee (1975-1976)
- Morehead-Cain Scholar - University of North Carolina Chapel Hill
- Patrick Wilson Scholar - Vanderbilt Law School
- *Vanderbilt Law Review*, Editor

Community

- Songbirds Foundation, Inc., Board of Directors
- Public Education Foundation, Principal Leadership Program
- McKenzie Foundation, Board of Directors
- Boys & Girls Clubs of Chattanooga, Board of Directors, Man & Youth Award
- Chattanooga Community Kitchen
- Baylor School, past Trustee and Alumni Board Past President
- Vanderbilt Law School, past Alumni Board Member
- University of North Carolina, past Board of Visitors
- Haitian School Project
- Whitwell High School Foundation, Board of Directors

Sidebar

When he's not at the office, Bill enjoys staying active. You may find him working out, mountain biking, or hiking. He also is a long-time supporter of several community groups and nonprofits; he dedicates a great deal of his time to board service and volunteering with organizations like the Boys and Girls Clubs of Chattanooga, Chattanooga Community Kitchen, and the Songbirds Foundation.