



Nakimuli O. Davis-Primer

Shareholder

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Nakimuli O. Davis-Primer concentrates her practice in the areas of labor and employment and commercial litigation.

Nakimuli partners with employers to create respectful and thriving workplaces that comply with federal, state, and local laws. She regularly counsels and advises clients on workplace issues; reviews, revises, and creates employee handbooks and policies that align with the client's overall mission, goals, and applicable laws; develops and conducts training programs on a variety of topics for executive leaders and management- and supervisory-level employees; and assesses and evaluates measures to reduce legal risks associated with employment-related decisions. Clients also call upon Nakimuli to conduct internal investigations and provide guidance on leave and accommodation issues, termination decisions, pay considerations (including final pay, PTO, and vacation payout), and other employment matters. She also advises employers on reorganizations, reductions in force, restructuring, voluntary buy-out programs, and internal audits of position classifications to ensure compliance with the Fair Labor Standards Act (FLSA).

Nakimuli has extensive experience advising clients on all aspects of their diversity, equity, inclusion, and belonging (DEIB) initiatives, programs, and activities, including but not limited to conducting internal audits for risk assessments. She develops ongoing training programs that raise awareness, identify tools and strategies, and reinforce best practices for creating sustainable, inclusive workplaces. These measures are critical to increasing employee engagement and reducing legal risks, particularly the risk of harassment and discrimination claims.

In addition to advising clients, Nakimuli represents them in litigation and administrative proceedings, including matters before the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission (EEOC), Unemployment Commission, and the Department of Labor. She defends employers in litigation filed pursuant to various state and federal laws, including Title VII and Title VI of the Civil Rights Act, Section 1981, the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), the Age Discrimination in Employment Act (ADEA), the Rehabilitation Act, the Family and Medical Leave Act (FMLA), Section 1983, the Equal Pay Act (EPA), and the FLSA.

Nakimuli counsels and represents employers across numerous industries, including higher education, manufacturing, education, banking, health care, state agencies, and hospitality on various employment-related and novel issues. She also advises higher education clients on student-related issues.

Her commercial litigation practice includes representing companies in breach of contract, fraud, personal injury, premises liability, intentional torts, tortious interference, and other claims. She has experience representing insurance carriers in breach of insurance policy and bad faith claims, as well as representing the carriers' corporate insureds in litigation ranging from premises liability, breach of contract, breach of duties of good faith and fair dealing, bad faith, employment, and negligence claims. Nakimuli has reviewed and evaluated insurance policies to assist insurers with making coverage decisions and has represented insurers in declaratory judgment actions. She also has significant experience litigating federal condemnation actions.

Prior to joining Baker Donelson, Nakimuli served as a law clerk to the Honorable Leslie H. Southwick of the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Fifth Circuit. In recent years, she has also served as an adjunct professor at the Mississippi College School of Law, teaching Employment Law. Nakimuli is licensed in Georgia, Mississippi, and Tennessee.



Representative Matters

- Obtained summary judgment in favor of client in a discrimination lawsuit alleging age discrimination in violation of the Age Discrimination in Employment Act.
- Obtained dismissal of Title VII gender discrimination claim, ADEA age discrimination claim and Section 1983 and Section 1981 claims alleged against a school district.
- Successfully resolved state court litigation alleging FLSA violations against a higher education institution for their alleged failure to pay for overtime and alleged hours worked.
- Successfully represented a higher education client on multiple charges of discrimination alleging disability, age, and gender discrimination claims against the institution before the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission.
- Successfully defended federal court litigation against a health care client on alleged violation of the Families First Coronavirus Response Act (FFCRA) due to an employee's diagnosis of COVID-19.
- Obtained summary judgment in favor of client in a discrimination lawsuit filed in federal court by a truck driver alleging race and age discrimination in violation of Title VII and the ADEA and successfully defended the appeal before the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Fifth Circuit and the United States Supreme Court.
- Obtained dismissal in favor of the client for a wrongful termination lawsuit in Mississippi state court attempting to rely on a novel expanded view of the exceptions to the at-will doctrine and successfully defended appeal before the Mississippi Court of Appeals and Mississippi Supreme Court.
- Obtained dismissal in favor of a client in a breach of contract and constructive fraud case involving alleged failure to properly inspect a home and reveal termite infestations.
- Conducted more than 100 trainings and presentations on DEI issues for over 1,000 attorneys, law students, human resource professionals, corporate leaders, managers and supervisors, and other client staff and employees on defining DEI, implicit (unconscious) bias, generational diversity, inclusive communication strategies, increasing employee engagement, and other diversity and inclusion issues, best practices, and concerns.
- Successfully defended various clients against litigation filed by the EEOC including an action asserting violations of the Equal Pay Act and alleged pay discrimination in violation of Title VII and an action asserting a failure to hire an individual in a wheelchair due to their disability.
- Obtained multiple summary judgment rulings in favor of clients in premises liability cases including one case involving a trip-and-fall on a set of stairs on the property and another involving a fall down a hill on the property.
- Obtained dismissal in favor of insurer in a case alleging bad faith breach of contract for denying life insurance premiums and seeking more than \$500,000 in compensatory damages as well as extra-contractual, consequential and punitive damages.
- Represented multiple employers, including state agencies, health care facilities, assisted living facilities, nursing homes, and manufacturers, and obtained favorable resolutions in EEOC administrative proceedings by responding to charges of discrimination and investigator questions, interviews, requests for information, mediations and conciliations.
- Obtained summary judgment in favor of an insurance company client in a case alleging bad faith breach of insurance policy including issues concerning mold coverage, liability for contractor's negligence and gross negligence in claims handling.
- Obtained favorable ruling from the Mississippi Court of Appeals affirming dismissal of claims against insurance company client in which the plaintiff sought \$750,000 in compensatory damages and over \$2 million in punitive damages for bad faith failure to pay insurance benefits under a homeowner's policy and successfully defended request for Certiorari to the Mississippi Supreme Court.
- Obtained summary judgment on behalf of a mortgage servicer where the borrower asserted standing and debt collection issues and sought to invalidate the debt and deed of trust. Successfully briefed the mortgage servicing issues, including standing and statutory construction in nonjudicial foreclosure action before the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Fourth Circuit.

- Defended a poultry processor against race, national origin, and gender discrimination, retaliation, and harassment claims brought by 11 individual plaintiffs and a pattern and practice claim brought by the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission seeking to recover equitable relief, compensatory damages, and punitive damages on behalf of more than 100 class members that ultimately resulted in a favorable settlement for the client.
- Obtained consent judgment that an insurance policy was void *ab initio* in a declaratory judgment action resulting in the insurer only repaying the insurance premium.
- Obtained summary judgment in favor of the client in a case alleging *respondeat superior* claim by demonstrating the alleged negligent actor was not an employee of the client but an independent contractor.
- Obtained dismissal of a lawsuit filed by a former employee claiming bad faith denial of workers' compensation benefits.
- Successfully resolved an OSHA complaint against a manufacturing client made by a former employee alleging their termination violated the whistleblower provisions of Section 11(c) of the OSH Act, 29 U.S.C. 660.
- Successfully defended a medical school in a federal lawsuit by a former student claiming the school failed to accommodate his disability. Obtained complete dismissal of the lawsuit, which was upheld on appeal.



Professional Honors & Activities

- Listed in *The Best Lawyers in America*® for Litigation - Labor and Employment (2024 – 2026); Employment Law - Management (2026)
- Listed in *Chambers USA* as a leading Labor & Employment lawyer in Mississippi (2022 – 2025)
- Named to Lawyers of Color's Wonderful Women inaugural list (2023)
- Recognized by Bloomberg as a [2022 They've Got Next: The 40 Under 40](#)
- Named a Rising Star by Minority Corporate Counsel Association (2022)
- Recognized by the American Bar Association Young Lawyers Division as a [2020 On the Rise – Top 40 Young Lawyer](#)
- Recognized as a Top 10 Finalist for the *Mississippi Business Journal's* Top 50 under 40 Business and Civic Leaders (2020)
- Recognized by National Black Lawyers as a Top 100 Attorney (2015 – 2019)
- Selected to Mid-South Super Lawyers in Employment Litigation: Defense (2023 – 2025)
- Selected to Mid-South Rising Stars (2014 – 2022)
- Recipient – Capital Area Bar Association Outstanding Service Award (2018)
- Recipient – Jackson Young Lawyers Outstanding Service Award (2013)
- Named to PORTICO 10 by *Portico Magazine* (2015)
 - Recognized as one of the top 10 up-and-coming attorneys in the Jackson metro area
- Named to Lawyers of Color's inaugural "Hot List" (2013)
 - Recognized as one of 100 early to mid-career minority attorneys under 40 from the South who are excelling in the legal profession.
- Editor – Baker Donelson's Diversity Newsletter (January 2020 – present)
- Vice Chair – Baker Donelson Diversity and Inclusion Committee
- Chair – Baker Donelson Diversity & Inclusion Communications Committee
- Co-Chair – Baker Donelson's BakerBridge Initiative, a Firm initiative that provides legal services, counsel, and support to minority owned businesses
- Leadership Council on Legal Diversity
 - Member, Pathways to Equity Project Committee (June 2022 – June 2023)
 - 2017 Fellows Class Liaison (2021 – present)
 - Fellow (2017, current Alumnae)
 - Pathfinder (2016)

- Fellow – American Bar Foundation (since 2016)
- American Inns of Court, The Charles Clark Inn
 - Bencher (2023 – present)
 - Barrister (2019 – 2023)
 - Associate (2013 – 2015)
- Jackson Young Lawyers Association
 - Co-chair of Community Service Committee (2012 – 2014)
- Mississippi Bar
 - Board of Commissioners (2025 – present)
 - *Mississippi Lawyer Magazine*, Associate Editor (2025 – present)
 - Disaster Legal Assistance Committee Volunteer Coordinator (2012 – 2013)
- American Bar Association
 - Diversity Liaison for the Workers' Compensation Committee (2014 – 2016)
- Magnolia Bar Association and Metro Jackson Black Women Lawyers Association
- Capital Area Bar Association
 - Chair of Diversity Committee (2016 – 2018)
 - Director on Executive Board (2019 – 2021)
 - Liaison to Diversity Committee and Board (2019 – 2021)
- Adjunct Professor at Mississippi College School of Law
 - Employment Law (Spring 2021 – Spring 2023)
 - Legal Writing (Spring 2010 and Spring 2011)
- Law Clerk – The Honorable Leslie H. Southwick, U.S. Court of Appeals for the Fifth Circuit (2009 – 2010)



Civic Honors & Activities

- Board Member – Springboard to Opportunities (January 2023 – present)
- Board of Trustees – Mississippi Museum of Art (2021 – present)
 - Personnel Subcommittee Chair (2024 – present)
 - Personnel Subcommittee Member (2021 – present)
- Graduate – Leadership Greater Jackson, class of 2014 – 2015
- Honored – Volunteer of the Year by Jackson Public School District for service to Dawson Elementary School (2013)
- Member – Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc. (2003 – present)
 - Member – Beta Delta Omega Chapter (January 2022 – present)



Publications

- "DEI in Higher Education: Courts Push Back, Enforcement Pushes Forward" (April 2026)
- "Court Limits Trump Administration's Executive Orders on DEI: Employer Impact" (February 2025)
- "Unpacking the U.S. Attorney General's "Ending Illegal DEI and DEIA Discrimination Preferences" Memo " (February 2025)
- "Navigating the Trump Administration's Executive Orders: Key Implications for Employers and Federal Contractors," republished February 10, 2025, in *Federal News Network* (January 2025)
- "Diversity Matters: Note from the Editor," *Diversity Matters Newsletter* (Winter 2024)
- "Creating a Flexible and Inclusive Workplace During the Holiday Season," *Diversity Matters Newsletter* (Winter 2024)
- "Diversity Matters: Note from the Editor," *Diversity Matters Newsletter* (Summer 2024)
- "Diversity Matters: Note from the Editor," *Diversity Matters Newsletter* (Spring 2024)
- "Diversity Matters: Note from the Editor," *Diversity Matters Newsletter* (Winter 2023)
- "Diversity Matters: Note from the Editor," *Diversity Matters Newsletter* (Summer 2023)

- "Should Your Organization Consider a Sponsorship Program?," *Diversity Matters Newsletter* (Summer 2023)
- Diversity *Did you know?* Column on Model Rule 8.4, Capital Area Bar Association Newsletter (December 2017)
- "Georgia May Give Employers Three Strikes for Failing to Respond to Unemployment Claim Notices But Other States are Not as Lenient" (January 2014)
- "OSHA Urges Retail Employers to Focus on Crowd Management During Holiday Sales" (November 2013)
- "Employers Must Pay Minimum Wage and Overtime to Home Care Workers They Jointly or Solely Employ" (October 2013)
- "Reselling Digital Music: Is there a Digital First Sale Doctrine," *Loyola of Los Angeles Entertainment Law Journal* (2009)



Speaking Engagements

- "Leading Multi-Generational Teams," Mississippi Bar Leadership Class (February 2025)
- "Engaging LGBTQ Individuals in the Workplace," Greater Jackson Chamber Partnership (December 2024)
- "Implications for Diversity Programs in Business and the Legal Field as a Result of the Supreme Court's Decision in *Students for Fair Admissions v. Presidents & Fellows of Harvard College*," Inn of Court, Charles Clark Chapter (November 2024)
- "Impact of Loper Bright on Employment Law," Mississippi Bar (September 2024)
- American Health Law Association's DEIA Symposium (April 2024)
- "Diversity Equity & Inclusion: Looking Ahead," 2024 TN SHRM Conference (April 2024)
- "Leading Across Generations," Mississippi Bar Leadership Class (January 2024)
- "Sponsorship Programs: The What, The Why, and the How," The National Association for Law Placement (NALP) (November 2023)
- Panelist – "Practice of Law," HBCU Prelaw Day at the University of Mississippi School of Law (October 2023)
- Panelist – "Importance and Impact of Collaboration between HR and Legal," Centerforce Driving Diversity in Law and Leadership Conference (October 2023)
- "DEI Initiatives: Where are we now?," Tennessee SHRM (September 2023)
- "Leading Across Multiple Generations," Mississippi Bar Leadership Class (March 2023)
- "Candid Conversation about Diversity and Inclusion," facilitated discussion with group of foreign diplomats visiting as part of the German American Chamber of Commerce (GACC) in Atlanta, Georgia (October 2022)
- "Oh the People You Will Meet: Generational Differences in the Legal Profession," University of Mississippi School of Law to Externship Class (May 2022)
- "Best Practices for Increasing Employee Engagement," 25th Annual Mississippi SHRM Conference (May 2022)
- "State of the Law Firm Culture," LawLine DEI Summit "A Real Conversation about Gender" (November 2021)
- "The Post-COVID Workplace: Reimagining, Rebooting, Rebuilding," The Inclusion & Equity Virtual Summit: South (October 13, 2021)
- "Diversity, Equity & Inclusion," German American Chambers of Commerce's SME Business Development Conference (September 2021)
- "Guidance Regarding Covid-19 Workplace Concerns," Mississippi Corporate Counsel Association (August 2021)
- "Top 5 FAQs related to COVID-19 Vaccinations," Charles Clark Inn of Court (May 2021)
- "Oh the People you Will Meet: Generational Diversity Considerations for Law Students," Mississippi College School of Law (May 2021)

- "Health Law Employment Law Update," Health Law Section of Mississippi Bar (April 2021)
- "Allies for Women of Color in the Legal Profession," Blue Plan Legal Department Cooperative, 2021 National Teleconference Series (March 2021)
- "Key Policies and Procedures in the Wake of COVID-19," Regions Bank CLE (September 2020)
- "Covid-19 and the Workplace," Mississippi Corporate Counsel Association and Mississippi Bar (July 2020)
- "Obstacle or Opportunity: Communicating Across Generations," University of Mississippi Winter Mississippi Municipal Attorney Association CLE (January 2020)
- "Generational Differences in the Workplace," Mississippi Corporate Counsel Association's monthly luncheon, Jackson, Mississippi (August 2019)
- "Implicit Bias: Unconscious Decisions and Ethical Considerations," Mississippi Bar Labor & Employment Section (July 2019)
- "Understanding Generations," Bay St. Louis Rotary Club (May 2019)
- "Employment Law Update," University of Mississippi CLE (May 2019)
- "Can't We All Just Get Along: Understanding Generational Differences," Evelyn Gandy Lecture Series (February 2019)
- "Closing the Divide: How Young Lawyers Can Transcend Generational Differences in the Legal Profession," Capital Area Bar Association Flash CLE (March 2018)
- "Discrimination in Pay: Beyond the Numbers," University of Mississippi Center for Continuing Legal Education's Last Chance CLE (September 2017)
- "Embracing a Multigenerational Legal Profession," Capital Area Bar Association (April 2017)
- "Internal Investigations & Corrective Measures," University of Mississippi's Center for Continuing Legal Education's Current Issues in Employment Law CLE Seminar (May 2016)
- "Employee Misconduct Investigations & Discipline," Mississippi Municipal Attorney's Association (January 2016)
- "The Unemployed Employee," The Northeast Mississippi Human Resources Association (June 2015)
- "Shaking Things Up: A View from the Bench, the Bar and Beyond," Capital Area Bar Association (April 2015)
- "Employment Law Update," CLE presentation for The University of Mississippi School of Law (April 2015)
- "The Unemployment Claims Process," Mississippi Hospitality & Restaurant Association's Restaurant University, Jackson, Mississippi (June 2014)
- Panelist – "Women in the Profession," Tougaloo College Law Day (2011)
- "Transitioning from an Engineering Background to Attorney," Mississippi State University (2011)



Webinars

- DE&I: Looking Ahead (October 2023)
- Working Through COVID-19: Legal Considerations and Top Three Issues Employers are Facing Due to COVID-19, Mississippi Corporate Counsel Association and Mississippi Bar (July 2020)



Education

- Cornell University, Diversity & Inclusion Certificate Program through eCornell, October 2020
- University of Mississippi School of Law, J.D., magna cum laude, 2009
 - Hugh C. "Buzzy" Clayton Memorial Scholarship Recipient
 - Executive Articles Editor, *Mississippi Law Journal*
 - President, Phi Delta Phi
 - Treasurer – Black Law Student Association
 - Tutor – Oxford Boys and Girls Club
 - Volunteer – North Mississippi Rural Legal Services

- 11th Annual Entertainment Law Initiative Writing Competition Finalist, 2009
- Mississippi State University, B.S. in Computer Science & Engineering (minors in Software Engineering and Math), magna cum laude, 2005



Admissions

- Georgia, 2021
- Tennessee, 2009
- Mississippi, 2009
- U.S. Supreme Court, 2018
- U.S. Court of Appeals for the Fifth Circuit, 2009
- U.S. Court of Appeals for the Seventh Circuit, 2024
- U.S. Court of Appeals for the Eleventh Circuit, 2022
- U.S. District Court for the Northern District of Georgia, 2022
- U.S. District Court for the Central District of Illinois, 2021
- U.S. District Courts for the Northern and Southern Districts of Mississippi, 2009
- U.S. District Court for the Middle District of Tennessee, 2025