

2010 LAWYERS OF THE YEAR

BEST LAWYERS HAS NAMED INDIVIDUALS AS LAWYERS OF THE YEAR IN NASHVILLE,
BASED ON THEIR PARTICULARLY HIGH LEVEL OF PEER RECOGNITION.

Jay Hardcastle

Bradley Arant Boult Cummings
HEALTH CARE LAW

Jay Hardcastle decided that he wanted to be a lawyer during his senior year in high school when during an American History course, the teacher took a six-week hiatus from the regular syllabus and taught constitutional law.



"It was the most interesting thing I'd ever heard of, and from that point forward, I wanted to be a lawyer," Hardcastle says.

After earning his JD from Vanderbilt University Law School in 1987, Hardcastle worked as a real estate lawyer. The tax reform act of 1986 and the real estate market collapse caused Hardcastle to begin working on health care transactions.

"We like to keep our clients apprised of things going on and it's challenging to keep up with the pace of statutory and regulatory changes in health care," Hardcastle says. "We believe that the new health care legislation will affect the business models currently used by health care companies in a dramatic way. We're trying to help our clients think through what the world's going to look like in 2014 and 2016. There are new opportunities and new risks that really didn't exist before the legislation. The winners will be those that can position themselves to take advantage of new and radical opportunities, like accountable care organizations."

The most significant moment in Hardcastle's career was helping Saint Thomas merge with Baptist and helping merge his firm with another firm to create a regional firm with a strong health care line of business.

"Having gone through a merger myself adds a whole new layer of understanding of what clients go through," Hardcastle says. "A lot of what we do in the health care section is merger work for health care companies."

In addition to his *Best Lawyers in America*® honors, Hardcastle has been honored by *Chambers USA*, *The Nashville Business Journal* and *Super Lawyers*.

—Ashley Cisneros

Robert J. Walker

Walker, Tipps & Malone
**BET-THE-COMPANY
LITIGATION**

While stationed on a United States Navy destroyer in the early 1960s, Robert J. Walker discovered his love for the law. The destroyer was one of the first ships involved in the Cuban Missile Crisis.

"A reserve officer who was a lawyer in Kansas City came aboard for temporary duty, and I got to know him because he was assigned to my watch," Walker says. "He had fought in World War II, and we became friends. He was very interested in his job, and after he left, he sent me three law books that got me interested in pursuing law."

When Walker finished his Navy service, he earned his JD at Vanderbilt University Law School in 1968.

Walker founded Walker, Tipps & Malone PLC with the intention of focusing solely on litigation. He has developed extensive experience in prosecuting and defending product liability, medical malpractice, and aviation lawsuits. For the past 25 years, Walker has focused primarily on commercial and business litigation.

In addition to several *Best Lawyers*® listings, Walker served as president of the Nashville Bar Association. He was elected a Fellow in the American College of Trial Lawyers and served as chairman for Tennessee from 1995 to 1997. He was also elected a Fellow in the Society of International Business Fellows.

Despite all the honors Walker sees himself as "average."

"I'm not an A+ in anything, but I'm a good strong B or an A- at many things," Walker laughs.

He's most proud of his family.

"I've got a great family and my wife has been extremely supportive," Walker says. "It's not easy to be the wife of a lawyer. None of my children want to be lawyers; I think I wore them out at the dinner table."



—Ashley Cisneros

NASHVILLE'S LAWYERS OF THE YEAR

BANKING LAWYER OF THE YEAR:
JAMES S. TATE, JR.

BANKRUPTCY & CREDITOR-DEBTOR
RIGHTS LAWYER OF THE YEAR:
CRAIG V. GABBERT, JR.

BET-THE-COMPANY
LITIGATOR OF THE YEAR:
ROBERT J. WALKER

CORPORATE LAWYER OF THE YEAR:
GEORGE W. BISHOP III

NON-WHITE-COLLAR CRIMINAL DEFENSE
LAWYER OF THE YEAR:
ROGER T. MAY

WHITE-COLLAR CRIMINAL DEFENSE
LAWYER OF THE YEAR:
PETER J. STRIANSE
ENVIRONMENTAL
LAWYER OF THE YEAR:
GARY C. SHOCKLEY

FAMILY LAWYER OF THE YEAR:
EDWARD P. SILVA

HEALTH CARE LAWYER OF THE YEAR:
JOHN B. HARDCASTLE, JR.
LABOR & EMPLOYMENT
LAWYER OF THE YEAR:
ROBERT E. BOSTON

LAND USE & ZONING
LAWYER OF THE YEAR:
COBURN DEWEES BERRY IV

MEDICAL MALPRACTICE
LAWYER OF THE YEAR:
JOHN A. DAY

MERGERS & ACQUISITIONS
LAWYER OF THE YEAR:
JAMES H. CHEEK III

PERSONAL INJURY
LITIGATOR OF THE YEAR:
J. HOUSTON GORDON

REAL ESTATE LAWYER OF THE YEAR:
J. THOMAS TRENT, JR.

SECURITIES LAWYER OF THE YEAR:
LEIGH WALTON

TAX LAWYER OF THE YEAR:
MICHEL G. KAPLAN
TRUSTS & ESTATES
LAWYER OF THE YEAR:
JAMES C. GOOCH