

## Chris Averitt

### PARTNER

Originally from Little Rock, Chris graduated from Hendrix College in 1995 where he earned a B.A. cum laude in Economics and Government with distinction. Chris attended the University of Arkansas School of Law where he graduated third in his class and earned a J.D. summa cum laude. He also served as the Executive Editor for the Arkansas Law Review; was a member of the Board of Advocates; and served as a member of the University's National Moot Court Team which advanced from the Regionals in St. Louis to the Finals in New York City for only the second time in school history.

In his first two years of practice, Chris was an associate in the litigation section of Friday, Eldredge, & Clark in Little Rock, Arkansas. In 2000, he moved to Jonesboro and practiced with the law firm of Orr, Scholtens, Willhite & Averitt, PLC which was located at 113 East Jackson Avenue in Jonesboro. In 2007, Chris and Jay purchased 113 East Jackson Avenue from their law partners and formed Scholtens & Averitt, PLC.

Chris primarily practices in the areas of civil litigation and appellate practice. His areas of practice include personal injury, product liability, commercial litigation, insurance defense and class action litigation. Chris represents both plaintiffs and defendants in his practice. He is licensed to practice law in Arkansas State Courts, in the United States District Court for the Eastern and Western Districts of Arkansas, in the United States Court of Appeals for the Eighth Circuit, and in the Supreme Court of the United States of America.

Chris has been lead or associate counsel on numerous cases wherein his clients were awarded in excess of one million dollars. Chris has also presented oral arguments before the Eighth Circuit Court of Appeals, the Arkansas Supreme Court, and the Arkansas Court of Appeals. Chris is a member of the Craighead County Bar Association, the Arkansas Bar Association, and the Arkansas Trial Lawyers' Association. In May of 2008, Chris was awarded a BV Peer Review Rating by LexisNexis Martindale-Hubbell. The BV Peer Review Rating identifies a lawyer with high to very high legal ability and the highest ethics, and it is the maximum rating a lawyer can achieve after admission to the bar for five to nine years. In August of 2008, Chris will have been licensed to practice law for ten years.

Chris is married to Catherine Hester Averitt. Chris and Catherine have a nine-year old son, Graham Christopher Averitt and a seven-year old daughter, Caroline Cherry Averitt. Chris is active in First Baptist Church in Jonesboro, and he teaches Sunday school to youth at Huntington Mission Church in Jonesboro. Chris and Catherine both serve on the Alumni Board for Hendrix College. Chris' parents live in Rogers, Arkansas where his father is a Minister of the United Methodist Church and his mother is a public school teacher.