



K. Nichole Nesbitt
Managing Partner

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Nikki Nesbitt is a partner of the firm and currently serves as its Managing Partner. Nikki's current practice concentrates on litigation in the healthcare field, most especially in the defense of medical malpractice cases but also cases involving civil rights disputes brought by employees, patients, guests, or other claimants. She represents clients before tribunals ranging from administrative agencies (including human relations offices and offices of administrative hearings) to trial-level courts (state and federal) to appellate courts. Nikki also handles employment matters outside of the healthcare context for employers in this region and beyond. Nikki's experience as a litigator provides her with insight to counsel her healthcare clients on preventing claims and crafting meaningful guidelines, policies, and agreements, in addition to defending matters that have already proceeded to litigation or administrative review.

For the entirety of her 25 years at the bar, Nikki has worked for Goodell DeVries and has moved through the ranks from summer associate to managing partner. She has enjoyed positions of leadership in the Maryland Defense Counsel, the Defense Research Institute, the Trial Network, and in non-legal organizations such as JDRF.

Practice Areas

- Medical Malpractice
- Medical Institutions Law
- Civil Rights / Public Accommodations Law
- Employer Liability
- Commercial and Business Tort Litigation
- Risk Management, Investigations, and Compliance

Court Admissions

- District of Columbia
- Maryland
- United States District Court for the District of Columbia
- United States District Court for the District of Maryland

- United States Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia Circuit
- United States Court of Appeals for the Fourth Circuit
- United States Supreme Court

Education

- University of Maryland, School of Law (J.D., Order of the Coif, 1999)
 - *Maryland Law Review* – Editor
- University of Maryland (B.A., *cum laude*, 1996)

Professional Associations

- The Trial Network (formerly Network of Trial Law Firms) – Chair (2020)
- Maryland Defense Counsel, Inc. – President (2015-2016); Co-Chair of Legislative Committee (2009-Present)
- District of Columbia Defense Lawyers Association – Active Member
- Maryland Society for Healthcare Risk Management – Active Member
- American Bar Foundation – Fellow
- District of Columbia Bar Association
- Maryland State Bar Association
- Bar Association of Baltimore City

Representative Matters

- **District of Columbia Superior Court (2023):** Obtained summary judgment on behalf of hospital client in birth injury case based on plaintiff's failure to establish vicarious liability.
- **District of Columbia Superior Court (2023):** Obtained summary judgment on behalf of hospital in premises liability matter.
- **District of Columbia Superior Court (2022):** Obtained voluntary dismissal of hospital client in medical malpractice case alleging mismanagement of post-appendectomy medications by establishing that all decisions were made by independent surgeon.
- **District of Columbia Superior Court (2022):** Obtained summary judgment in favor of behavioral health facility in

assault and false imprisonment claim based on Plaintiff's failure to name appropriate experts.

- **D.C. Office of Human Rights (2020):** Obtained order of “no probable cause” in discrimination action brought against hospital by patient who claimed she received inferior medical treatment and was discharged too soon as a result of her race.
- **District of Columbia Superior Court (2019):** Obtained defense verdict for hospital and its special police officers in connection with an excessive force claim brought by a visitor. The elderly plaintiff claimed she was wrongfully taken to the ground and handcuffed following an altercation with two special police officers, resulting in injury to her shoulders. The jury returned a verdict in favor of the hospital and the officers after a four-day trial.
- **D.C. Office of Human Rights (2018):** Obtained order of “no probable cause” in discrimination action brought against hospital by patient who claimed she was denied public housing as a result of hospital's malicious and discriminatory failure to provide documentation of her eligibility.
- **Circuit Court for Baltimore City (2017):** Obtained defense verdict for physician accused of injuring another physician in the course of performing surgery on a patient. The plaintiff, an orthopedic surgeon, accused the defendant, also an orthopedic surgeon, of negligently striking him in the elbow with a drill while both surgeons were performing a knee replacement. The plaintiff claimed the injury was career-ending. After an eight-day trial, the jury returned a verdict in favor of Ms. Nesbitt's client. The plaintiff appealed and the jury verdict was affirmed.
- **Circuit Court for Prince George's County (2017):** Obtained defense verdict for orthopedic surgeon accused of malpractice in failing to order blood thinners following the repair of the patient's patellar tendon. The patient died from a blood clot. After a seven-day trial, the jury found in favor of the surgeon.
- **Circuit Court for Baltimore City (2017):** Obtained defense verdict for internal medicine physician accused of malpractice in failing to diagnose the plaintiff's Vitamin B-12 deficiency. The plaintiff alleged that the delay in diagnosis caused permanent nerve damage, prohibiting her from being able to work, among other things. The jury returned a defense verdict after a six-day trial.

- **D.C. Office of Human Rights (2016):** Obtained order of “no probable cause” in discrimination action brought against hospital by patient who claimed she was mistreated by nursing staff and administration because of her race and disability.

Publications and Seminars

- Moderator, “Beyond Bias: Winning Strategies for Navigating Jurors’ Gender Perceptions,” From the Bench to the Beach: Legal Lessons with a View, The Trial Network (November 6-9, 2025)
- Panelist, “The Three Sides of Succession Planning,” Trial Network Member Summit (September 11, 2025)
- Author, [“Understanding CMS ‘Immediate Jeopardy’ Investigations in Healthcare Facilities,”](#) Goodell DeVries Blog (January 16, 2025)
- Presenter, “Separation Anxiety: Can Employers Still Buy Their Peace with Parting Employees?” Sun, Surf, and Strategies Conference, The Trial Network (May 3, 2024)
- Author, [“What’s Next for Non-Competes?”](#) Goodell DeVries Blog (May 19, 2023)
- Presenter, “Battling the Keyboard Warriors – Managing Disparaging Online Reviews and Social Media Posts,” Corporate Litigation: Never Face the Music Alone, The Trial Network (November 2022)
- Moderator, “Distinguishing Between *Daubert* & Other Expert Challenges,” CLE Program, Bar Association of Baltimore City (March 2022)
- Presenter, “Understanding Implicit Bias to Improve and Protect Your Workplace,” In-House and Outside Counsel: In Sync and In Person, The Trial Network (November 2021)
- Presenter, “Vaccine Mandates and Disclosures by Healthcare Employers,” Lightning Rounds 2021 Education Program, Maryland-D.C. Society for Healthcare Risk Management (MD-DC SHRM) (September 2021)
- Presenter, “Practical Advice from Women Law Firm Leaders,” Women, Leadership, & Equality (WLE) Webinar Series, University of Maryland Francis King Carey School of Law (June 2021)
- Presenter, “Minimizing Risk with General Contract Provisions,” Associated Corporate Counsel, Baltimore Chapter (February 2020)
- Presenter, “Physician Assistants and the Law: What You Need to Know,” Maryland Academy of Physician Assistants (MAPA), Annual Conference (September 2013)
- Presenter, “How to Avoid Medical Malpractice,” Maryland Academy of Physician Assistants (MAPA), Annual Conference (September 2012)

In the News

- ["Get to Know Nikki Nesbitt," The Trial Network](#) (December 2023)
- ["Nikki Nesbitt Continues Collaborative Leadership as Managing Partner," *195 Business*](#) (April 13, 2022)
- ["Featured Mover: K. Nichole Nesbitt, Goodell DeVries," *The Daily Record*](#) (January 28, 2020)

Community Activities

- Juvenile Diabetes Research Foundation, Greater Chesapeake and Potomac Chapter – Secretary (2014-2016); Board Member (2011-Present)
- University of Maryland School of Law – Mentor to first year law students (2002-Present)
- Regional Intercollegiate Mock Trial Tournament – Judge (1999-Present)

Honors and Awards

- Best Lawyers in America
 - Commercial Litigation (2016-Present)
- Chambers USA
 - Litigation: Medical Malpractice Defense, Maryland, Band 3 (2023-2024); Band 2 (2025)
 - Healthcare, Maryland (2017)
- *The Daily Record* – Leading Women Award (2011)
- Maryland Super Lawyers
 - Civil Litigation: Defense (2021-2025); Rising Stars (2009-2014)