



PROFESSIONAL EXCELLENCE

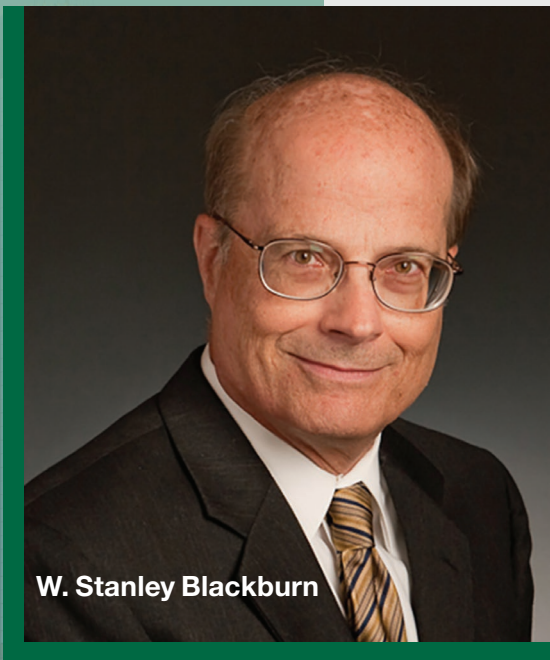
THURSDAY, AUGUST 26, 2021

LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT AWARD

*DAILY
REPORT*

LAW.COM

 **ALM**



W. Stanley Blackburn

W. Stanley Blackburn is senior counsel at Kilpatrick Townsend & Stockton.

Objectively, what achievements have defined your career, and subjectively, what have been your proudest accomplishments?

I think my career has been defined by the opportunities I have had to represent a variety of major companies in large, complex and mission-critical transactions. I have had the good fortune to work with and develop relationships with many great clients, handling multiple transactions for a number of them. I was introduced to the vast majority of these clients by other clients or my law firm colleagues. For this and other reasons, our firm has been a great fit for me for the past 45 years and has been critical to any success I have achieved. Subjectively, smaller but socially important deals were often the most satisfying. Negotiating the sale of Martin Luther King Jr.'s papers and the merger of the local boys and girls clubs come to mind.

What advice would you offer someone starting out (or considering) a career in law?

Anyone starting out should understand that, while law is a noble profession, it is also a service business. As the longtime leader of our firm's corporate practice, Barry Phillips, said to our group of starting associates in 1976, never forget that a lawyer's job is essentially to help a client do his or her job. That means learning the client's business and objectives and being responsive to client needs. In many practice areas, this often requires producing high quality work under severe time pressure. Fortunately, solving complex client legal problems is intellectually stimulating and extremely rewarding. Furthermore, a legal education, law degree and the training a young lawyer can get in a firm or law department are great assets for many different careers, not only in law, but also in business, government or public service. If someone finds that the practice of law is not a good fit, for whatever reason, he or she will have a great foundation for another career path.

Who most helped you achieve your career of success, and how did they do it?

Many, many people have helped me in my career. Key mentors from my early days who taught me how to practice law included our partners Barry Phillips, Miles Alexander, Kim Taylor, Richard Cheatham, Al Lurey and Dennis Meir. Our partner Lorton Massee introduced me to several charitable and professional organizations with which I have enjoyed working over many years. Numerous partners from different practice areas in our firm have brought me into or helped me develop significant client relationships. And of course any significant corporate transaction will involve many specialists from various practice areas as well as a number of other deal lawyers at different levels. Over the years I have been fortunate to have great support from any number of partners and associates in our practice group as well as in others. Finally, it must be said that the clients I have worked with have done the most to help my career. While it would not be appropriate for me to mention specific names, I owe them a great debt of gratitude.