



## Ashley Bryan Abel

Principal  
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### Practices

Class Actions and Complex Litigation  
Employee Benefits  
ERISA Complex Litigation

### Education

University of South Carolina  
J.D., 1987

South Carolina Honors College  
B.S., 1983  
Business Administration

### Admitted to Practice

- U.S. Supreme Court, 1998
- 1st Circuit Court of Appeals, 2006
- 2nd Circuit Court of Appeals, 2005
- 4th Circuit Court of Appeals, 1989
- 5th Circuit Court of Appeals, 2020
- 6th Circuit Court of Appeals, 1995
- 7th Circuit Court of Appeals, 1998
- 8th Circuit Court of Appeals, 2005
- 9th Circuit Court of Appeals, 2006
- 10th Circuit Court of Appeals, 2002
- 11th Circuit Court of Appeals, 2002

Ashley Bryan Abel is a Principal in the Greenville, South Carolina, office of Jackson Lewis P.C. He has extensive experience as lead counsel in single plaintiff, multi-plaintiff, and class action employment litigation as well as employee benefits litigation.

Mr. Abel's employee benefits practice includes the defense of private and public employers, benefit plans, insurers, plan fiduciaries and service providers against ERISA and benefits lawsuits alleging claims for breach of fiduciary duty, benefits due, statutory penalties and others. He also defends employers and executives against single plaintiff and class action litigation involving wage and hour, discrimination, harassment and other employment law claims.

Mr. Abel has appeared as lead counsel in over 25 states and in all United States Courts of Appeals. He has a distinguished list of case victories across the country for clients including Liberty Mutual, Pfizer, Wal-Mart, Beverly Enterprises, Liberty Life, Deloitte, IBM, Michelin, Pepsi Bottling Group and ABB.

Mr. Abel also counsels clients, presents speeches, and conducts training across the country in areas of employee benefits and employment law. Recent topics of these engagements include fiduciary risk management, human resources best practices, electronic discovery, class action issues and strategies, and crisis management.

Mr. Abel is a Certified Specialist in Employment and Labor Law by the S.C. Supreme Court and was named as a "10 Best" Employment & Labor Law Attorney for client satisfaction in South Carolina.

### Honors and Recognitions



### Professional Associations and Activities

- American Bar Association, Subcommittee co-chair of Employee Benefits Committee
- South Carolina Bar

Appeals, 1998

- U.S. Court of Appeals, DC Circuit, 1998
- Connecticut - D. Conn., 2007
- Illinois - N.D. Ill., 2005
- Indiana - N.D. Ind., 2006
- Indiana - S.D. Ind., 2006
- Michigan - E.D. Mich., 1999
- South Carolina - D. S.C., 1988
- Tennessee - E.D. Tenn., 2001
- Wisconsin - E.D. Wis., 2020

## Published Works

- “Employment Discrimination and Employee Benefits,” Chapter 15 of *Employee Benefits Law* (BNA) [Co-Author]
- *ERISA Litigation*, “Class Actions” and “Remedies” Chapters (BNA) [Co-Author]

## Speeches

- “Tackling the Latest Discovery Issues in Disability Claim Actions,” ACI National Advanced Forum on Litigating Disability Insurance Claims (Philadelphia, PA, January 2016) (panelist)
- “Latest Employee Benefit Issues Every HR Professional Needs to Know,” BMW Manuf. Corp./Jackson Lewis Symposium (Greenville, SC, October 2015) (presenter)
- “Successful Resolution Through Mediation and Arbitration,” BMW Manuf. Corp./Jackson Lewis Symposium (Greenville, SC, November 2014) (presenter)
- “ERISA Litigation Analysis and Administrative Processes,” Pfizer Employee Benefits Summit (New York, NY, June 2014) (presenter)
- “Crisis Management,” S.C. Association of Corp. Counsel (Greenville, SC, June 2014) (presenter)
- “Retaliation, Interference and Employee Benefits,” American Law Institute National (Webcast, March 2013) (panelist)
- “The Affordable Care Act (What Employers Need to Know) and ERISA Fiduciary Update,” BMW Manufacturing Corp. Annual Conference (Greenville, SC, November 2013) (presenter)
- “Retaliation, Interference and Employee Benefits,” American Law Institute (Webcast, March 2013) (presenter)
- “The State of Employee Benefits in 2012,” Association of Corporate Counsel (Webcast, May 2012) (presenter)
- “ERISA Fiduciary Litigation: The Newest Developments in Plaintiff’s Theories and Substantive Defenses,” American Conference Institute, Annual ERISA Litigation Conference (New York, NY, October 2010) (presenter)
- “Protecting Benefit Plans,” 20th Annual Corporate Counsel Conference (Washington, D.C., May 2010) (presenter)
- “Retiree Health Benefit Litigation,” American Conference Institute, Annual ERISA Litigation Conference (New York, NY, October 2009) (presenter)