

## LITIGATION

### PROFILE

## Reid earns exclusive recognition for being one of country's best trial lawyers

BY COLE EPLEY

In more than 40 years of practicing law, Glen Reid undoubtedly has plenty of war stories to tell. He's prosecuted high-profile, white-collar crimes along with crooked cops on the take.

But in reflecting on his celebrated career as one of the top litigators in the field, the self-described jack-of-all-trades notes above all else how the practice of law has changed — and for the better.

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tor in the U.S. Attorney's Office in 1971 — the same year he graduated from the Memphis State University School of Law — the legal atmosphere was one of class and respect. But after about 10 years, things took a less amicable turn.

"People just started scrambling

"In Memphis, or even the Mid-South, the practice of law has gotten much more civil and professional over the last 20 or 30 years," Reid says.

When Reid, now the partner in charge of the Memphis office for Wyatt Tarrant & Combs LLP, was sworn in as a federal prosecu-

tor in the U.S. Attorney's Office in 1971 — the same year he graduated from the Memphis State University School of Law — the legal atmosphere was one of class and respect. But after about 10 years, things took a less amicable turn.



ALAN HOWELL | MBJ

**Glen Reid, partner in charge of Wyatt, Tarrant & Combs' Memphis office, was inducted into a very exclusive trial lawyers academy.**

and being antagonistic. Even in contentious lawsuits, you can still be friendly, professional and civil to one another," he says. "Memphis has really swung back to be a very friendly and cordial place to work."

Fresh out of law school, Reid headed to the Attorney's Office, where he built his reputation in litigation. By 1976, having tried several hundred cases, he left, but not before being recognized for his acumen as a litigator with a Special Commendation for Outstanding Service from then-Attorney General Edward Hirsch Levi.

"It was a great office. We only had seven people there, but we got some pretty substantial cases," he says. "We prosecuted some sheriffs

that were on the take and what not, and I was able to stay long enough for trial experience, which is hard to come by."

After leaving the federal sphere, Reid joined the Memphis firm Canada, Russell and Turner, where he soon achieved the role of partner. He has remained as a partner with the same group of professionals ever since, from that firm's transition into the McDonnell Boyd Law Firm, then to Walt Dyer and James and, finally, to Wyatt Tarrant & Combs.

"I'm kind of a dinosaur without any one specialty," Reid says, noting his extensive experience in cases concerning commercial litigation, products liability, medical device

defense and even some occasional criminal defense work.

Special commendations aside, Reid has continued to find himself in esteemed company throughout his career. He has been a member of the American College of Trial Lawyers for about 20 years, he estimates. Among the roughly three dozen Memphis attorneys included in that organization is Memphis Mayor A C Wharton Jr.

In April 2012, Reid was inducted into the International Academy of Trial Lawyers — a highly exclusive organization of the top 500 litigators from 39 countries across the globe. There are just two other area attorneys that are present members of the organization, one of whom is Reid's long-time friend Gary Smith.

In fact, Smith nominated Reid to the academy, and he recalls a story he heard second-hand that spoke to Reid's discernment.

"A few years ago, Glen was the local lawyer on a very high-profile case for an L.A. lawyer ... He won the case and at an academy meeting

a few months later, I encountered a member of the academy whose brother had hired Glen on the case," Smith says. "He said his brother couldn't speak highly enough of Glen Reid in Memphis, Tenn., that he was the best thing he'd ever come across. That's when I thought, 'I've got to nominate him.'"

A litigation lawyer with Apperson Crump PLC himself, Smith attended law school at the same time as Reid, though he was two years younger. And while the two have never tried a case together, Smith holds Reid in the highest respect.

Simply put, Smith says, "He's one of the best."

Accolades and experience aside, Reid still admits a few areas in which he would have liked to have spent more time over the years, one of them being out in the community at-large.

"I have been working harder than I should and I haven't been as involved as I've wanted to be, but I still have helped many younger lawyers with a lot of pro bono work,"

he says. "I've just been so busy practicing law and trying lawsuits that I haven't been as involved in the community as I would have liked to have been."

Still, he has been involved with the Memphis Area Legal Services Association, for example, to which he has donated fees and for which he has also taken cases. He has made more time to enjoy the great outdoors — more specifically, hunting pheasant in South Dakota each year and inshore saltwater fishing in South Carolina.

Lately, he has also spent more time with his family, upon whom his influence is clearly apparent. With his wife, Reid has raised two daughters.

One of them is married to a lawyer. The other, fittingly, is a lawyer herself.

"To make a footprint in the legal profession is like any other profession," he says. "You have to find balance between putting your time in to develop professionally and having a life and spending time with family."