English Lucas Priest & Owsley, LLP

Charles E. English

Partner

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Overview

Accounting and law serve as the foundation of Charles E. English's legal career. A founding partner of ELPO, he advises businesses and individuals on legal and financial matters on a daily basis, and finds accounting, which was his undergraduate and graduate major, almost equally as useful as his law degree. "I use my accounting and tax knowledge every day in my work," Charles English said. "I find the financial principles taught in accounting essential in business and estate and probate work. Selecting accounting as my major was one of the best choices I made concerning my education."

Charles' primary areas of practice are business law, including banking, business and estate litigation, business formation and condemnation. He also handles cases concerning universities and foundations, and regularly manages probate, trusts and estate cases.

Among the most notable business cases he's handled was

PRACTICE AREAS

- Business Litigation
- Asset Protection
- Appellate Practice
- Probate Administration
- Estate Planning

acting as corporate counsel in the formation, organization, financing, construction and joint venturing of a large ethanol manufacturing facility with a Fortune 500 company.

He served as local counsel for Fruit of the Loom Inc. in federal court in various shareholder derivative actions against the company's board of directors and officers, successfully defending Fruit of the Loom. He won a case for the Kentucky Association of Counties Insurance Trust, which sued attorneys for mismanagement and conflict of interest.

A substantial portion of his practice is devoted to litigation at both the trial and appellate levels. He successfully represented Western Kentucky University's Student Life Foundation, establishing in the Kentucky Supreme Court the foundation's immunity in a claim against it for the rape and murder of a student in a dorm owned by the foundation. He also represented the Simpson County Water District in a case decided by the Kentucky Supreme Court establishing the public service commissions' jurisdiction over municipalities in contracts with water districts.

Charles returned to Bowling Green after earning his law degree from the University of Kentucky. He was strongly encouraged to return by a call from his former debate coach, who was working for Western Kentucky University. The coach, Ray Cravens, asked him to come back to Bowling Green and serve as the assistant coach for Western's debate team. He did so, and also taught accounting, business law and communication at Western and practiced law, staying on Western's faculty until 1999. "Teaching is a wonderful experience," Charles said. "You learn more than you teach. You review and relearn the principles of accounting as you teach, and keep up with changes in the law and cases as textbooks are updated and you read to keep up with your students."

He's still in a teaching role today as he helps shepherd the next generation of attorneys working for ELPO. He likes to keep his door open and be available for questions, should any arise. He also finds that he learns from them as well. "They're bright and they know a lot," he said. "They know a lot more than I did at that stage. It's an evolution in society."

Charles' leadership roles extend into his profession. He served as a member of the American Bar Association ("ABA") Board of Governors and served as chair of the finance committee. He is a former member of the ABA's House of Delegates and the ABA's Standing Committee on the Federal Judiciary. He serves on the

Kentucky Supreme Court and Court of Appeals Judicial Nominating Committee and is also a member of Kentucky's Judicial Campaign Conduct Committee. He is a life member of the Judicial Conference for the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Sixth Circuit. Charles is a past President of the Kentucky Bar Association.

Charles received the Kentucky Bar Association's Outstanding Lawyer Award in 1999. He was named to the University of Kentucky College of Law Hall of Fame in 2004. He served as Vice President of the Board of Directors of the Kentucky Chamber of Commerce and served on the board of the Kentucky Historical Society. Charles served as Chair of the Bowling Green-Warren County Hospital Commission and was instrumental in the conversion of the city/county hospital operation into a not-for-profit entity resulting in the creation of The Medical Center. He is frequently invited to speak to various professional, business and civic organizations. His son, Charles E. English Jr. (Buzz), also practices law at ELPO and has served as President of the Kentucky Bar Association.

Credentials

Education

- University of Kentucky College of Law , J.D., 1960
- University of Kentucky College of Commerce, B.S., 1957

Admission

- Kentucky, 1960
- U.S. Court of Appeals for the Sixth Circuit
- U.S. Court of Appeals for the Eleventh Circuit
- U.S. District Courts for the Eastern and Western Districts of Kentucky
- U.S. Tax Court

Affiliations

- American Bar Association Standing Committee on Lawyers Professional Liability, 1990 to 1992; Special Member, 2006 to 2012; House of Delegates, 1982 to 2006; Kentucky state delegate to the Nominating Committee from 1998 to 2008; Board of Governors, 2009 to 2012 (Chair of Finance Committee); Standing Committee on the Federal Judiciary, 1994 to 2000.
- Kentucky Bar Association (President, 1985-86; Board of Governors, 1979-87)
- Kentucky Supreme Court and Court of Appeals Judicial Nominating Commission
- Kentucky Judicial Campaign Conduct Committee
- Southern Conference of Bar Presidents

- American College of Trial Lawyers
- American Academy of Appellate Lawyers
- American Board of Trial Advocates
- Federation of Defense and Corporate Counsel
- International Association of Defense Counsel
- American Law Institute
- U.S. Court of Appeals for the Sixth Circuit, Judicial Conference Life Member
- Lawyers Mutual Insurance Company of Kentucky , Past President
- University of Kentucky College of Law Visiting Committee, Chair 2014-2015
- Western Kentucky University faculty, 1960 to 1999
- Special Judge, Kentucky Supreme Court, 2013 and 2015

Community Involvement

- Elder, Presbyterian Church
- Kentucky Chamber of Commerce, former Vice President of the Board of Directors
- Kentucky Historical Society, former member of the Board of Directors
- Co-chair, Bowling Green Area Chamber of Commerce Strategic Council (2020)

Insights

News

- Fifteen ELPO Law Attorneys Recognized in 2027 Edition of The Best Lawyers in America
- ELPO Law Attorneys Recognized in the 32nd Edition of The Best Lawyers in America©
- ENGLISH PRESENTED WITH INAUGURAL CHIEF JUSTICE MINTON AWARD
- Seven ELPO Law Attorneys Named 2025 Super Lawyers. One Named Rising Star
- Charles E. English, Sr. Presented With 2024 William H. Natcher Award by BG-WC Bar Association
- ELPO Law Attorneys Recognized by Best Lawyers in America® and Best Lawyers: Ones to Watch® in America.
- Seven ELPO Law Attorneys Named 2024 Super Lawyers; One Named Rising Star
- Ten ELPO Law Attorneys Recognized in The Best Lawyers in America© 2024; Five Named Best Lawyers: Ones to Watch
- Eight ELPO Law Attorneys Named 2023 Super Lawyers; One Named Rising Star
- Nine ELPO Law Attorneys Recognized as Best Lawyers 2023; Five Named Best Lawyers: Ones to Watch
- Eight ELPO Law Attorneys Named 2021 Super Lawyers; One Named Rising Star
- Seven ELPO Law Attorneys Recognized as Best Lawyers 2021; Three Named Best Lawyers: Ones to Watch
- Charles E. English and John Holland Co-Chair Chamber Strategic Council
- Seven ELPO Law Attorneys Named 2020 Super Lawyers; Two Named Rising Stars
- Best Lawyers Ranks Seven ELPO Law Attorneys for 2020
- Best Lawyers ranks 6 attorneys for 2019

- Best Lawyers ranks five attorneys for 2018
- Charles English speaks to Southern Kentucky Association of Paralegals
- Best Lawyers ranks five attorneys for 2017
- Young Lawyers Division lunch honors history
- Best Lawyers chooses five from ELPO for honors
- Best Lawyers ranks firm, attorneys for 2015
- Charles English named chair of Visiting Committee for UK Law
- Super Lawyers chooses six from ELPO
- ELPO attorneys honored as Best Lawyers in America
- Five attorneys listed in The Best Lawyers in America
- Super Lawyers includes 5 from ELPO
- Thirteen attorneys rated AV by Martindale-Hubbell
- Twelve ELPO attorneys rated AV
- Charles E. English honored for helping secure funding for Kentucky public defenders
- Kentucky Attorney Charles E. English nominated to American Bar Association Board of Governors