HUSCH BLACKWELL

Madeline Leonard Phifer

ASSOCIATE

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OVERVIEW

With a passion for the technical side of law, Madeline represents both private wealth and commercial clients at trial and on appeal.

Shortly after joining the firm, Madeline began to focus a significant portion of her practice on trust and estate litigation, gaining meaningful trial and appellate experience early in her career. As a second year associate, she served on a victorious appeal team trying an issue of first impression in Tennessee, writing briefings for the state supreme court and sitting second chair for oral argument in the district court.

Madeline enjoys practicing in the private wealth arena thanks to her love of complex legal technicalities, as well as her enthusiasm for working with individual clients. She finds great satisfaction in supporting families and working directly with the individuals who have a personal stake in the litigation.

In addition to her trust and estate work, Madeline also represents corporate clients in traditional commercial litigation, working frequently with banks and other financial institutions. The financial industry is a perfect fit for her technical, detail-driven mind, and she thrives on the complexity of financial litigation.

Madeline is known for her passion for digging deeply into statutes, examining the finer points of a legal argument and finding unique ways to execute strategy—making her a particularly excellent team member when constructing an appeal. She's also known as a deeply collaborative professional with a gift for bringing legal teams together.

Industry

Financial Services & Capital Markets

Services

Appellate

Commercial Litigation

Financial Services Litigation

Litigation & Alternative Dispute Resolution

Private Wealth

Trust, Estate, & Fiduciary Litigation

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Experience

- Served on victorious appeal team on an issue of first impression in Tennessee involving a private family trust.
- Sat second chair for major hearing and handled direct examinations and questions.
- Drafted motions to dismiss, motions for summary judgement, motions for judgement on pleadings, interrogatories, requests for production and mediation statements.
- Assisted with deposition prep and defended depositions.
- Handled pro bono adoption and supervised other attorneys handling pro bono adoptions.

Education

- J.D., University of Tennessee College of Law
  - *Tennessee Law Review*, Executive Editor
  - *summa cum laude*
- B.A., Lee University
  - Public Relations major, Business Administration minor
  - *summa cum laude*

Admissions

- Tennessee
- Georgia
- U.S. District Court, Eastern District of Tennessee
- U.S. District Court, Middle District of Tennessee
- U.S. District Court, Northern District of Georgia
- U.S. District Court, Middle District of Georgia

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*Contact Madeline to set up an in-person consultation by appointment in the Chattanooga office.

2025 Pro Bono Contributor

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