

REGIONAL PRESENCE, PERSONAL TOUCH

Statewide Powerhouse Injury Attorney Rocky McElhaney Provides A Gateway to Justice and Achieves Multimillion-Dollar Verdicts and Settlements

For trial attorney Rocky McElhaney, assisting people who have been injured through the negligence of others isn't just a profession, it's a calling.

"Some people go to law school just to have a station in life; I went so I could provide people with a gateway to justice," he says. "Coming from that perspective has led me to make client service my highest priority."

McElhaney knew since the age of 16 that he wanted to be a trial lawyer. When he was growing up, his father was seriously injured in a work accident and was denied workers' compensation benefits. Soon after, his family lost their home trying to pay his father's medical bills. McElhaney then resolved that he would dedicate his life to helping families affected by serious injuries and accidents.

"When my father was injured it was a struggle, so I can identify with people in similar situations," McElhaney says. "It's because of that background that being an attorney is more than a job to me—it's my life's work."

McElhaney is the founder and lead attorney of the Rocky McElhaney Law Firm, one of Nashville's premier injury and accident law firms. The firm only represents people who have been injured, never insurance companies or large corporations. McElhaney and his team of accomplished lawyers, including Taylor Sutherland, Russell Belk, and Steven Fifield, have garnered reputations throughout Tennessee for their successful results, particularly in cases involving brain injuries, tractor trailer wrecks, and wrongful death. The firm also focuses on representing families with children who have been catastrophically injured.

"The key to our success has been our ability to identify with our clients' situations and our commitment to doing everything we can to maximize their recovery," McElhaney explains. McElhaney was 27 years old when he began representing accident victims. At 28, he settled his first multimillion-dollar case for a Broadway actress who had been injured in a highway

accident. Four years later, he achieved his first million-dollar jury verdict, winning \$1.25 million for a client in a wrongful death case. That same year, McElhaney secured a \$4 million settlement for a construction worker who had suffered severe burns in an industrial work site explosion.

"We're not just looking for fair settlements in these cases," McElhaney notes. "We're looking for maximum compensation."

In addition to achieving significant results for his clients, McElhaney has worked on a number of high-profile cases.

In 2009 he won a landmark decision against General Motors that allowed hundreds of workers to reopen settled and resolved cases. He has also argued before the Tennessee Supreme Court six times. More recently, he provided pro bono representation to Helen Bailey, the 78-year-old former civil rights activist who was threatened with foreclosure by JPMorgan Chase.

McElhaney is AV Preeminent[®] rated by Martindale-Hubbell[®], the organization's highest rating for legal ability and ethical standards. In 2008 he was invited to join the National Trial Lawyers Association, which limits its membership to the top 100 trial lawyers in each state. He was also named in the *Nashville Business Journal's* Best of the Bar publication from 2007 to 2010. Additionally, for the past two years, he has been named in the Super Lawyers' list of Rising Stars.

Still, McElhaney notes that the most rewarding aspect of his work hasn't been these recognitions, but the gratitude he receives from his clients. "There's nothing that compares to concluding a case and knowing that you've helped someone piece his or her life back together," he says.



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—ROCKY McELHANEY

—Sean Stonefield