

Denzel E. Okinedo

Associate

Birmingham, AL
(205) 458-5278
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“I chose this profession to help amplify the voice of the clients I represent and serve. As their advocate and counsel, my ultimate goal is to always protect their interests and help them achieve success in every respect.”

Denzel builds his client relationships on trust, believing that without it, you have nothing else. Denzel is an attorney in the Birmingham office where he serves as a member of the Economic Development team and practices in the firm’s Corporate & Tax Practice Group. Denzel’s practice includes negotiating and structuring economic development incentive packages, representing clients before various governmental bodies, drafting legislation, contract negotiations, mergers and acquisitions, business formations, and comprehensive general corporate counsel work. Denzel also has experience handling matters involving business/commercial litigation, consumer financial services litigation, political law, and election/campaign compliance.

Taking a collaborative approach to each matter, Denzel understands the importance of serving and leading a strong team. Moreover, Denzel’s diverse practice has afforded him valuable experiences, such as serving as counsel and policy strategist for a political campaign, providing support for the legal department of an international automotive manufacturer, and maintaining leadership roles in a number of community initiatives. In 2022, Denzel was awarded the NextGen BHM: Law Award by the *Birmingham Business Journal* and was recognized as an up-and-coming leader in the Birmingham business community.

When he is not working, Denzel spends time discussing and studying politics, attending concerts, traveling, watching movies, and attempting to play golf.

PARALEGAL/ASSISTANT

Legal Practice Assistant

Tracy L. Launsby
(205) 458-5222
tlaunsby@burr.com

CAPABILITIES

Economic Development
Corporate Law
Government Relations
Commercial Litigation
Consumer Finance Litigation & Compliance
Financial Institution Disputes
Business Formation
Commercial Contracts
Mergers & Acquisitions

EDUCATION

J.D., Samford University Cumberland School of Law
B.A., Birmingham-Southern College

LICENSED IN

Alabama
Illinois

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Denzel is licensed in Alabama and he earned his J.D. from the Cumberland School of Law at Samford University. While obtaining his law degree, Denzel was elected as President of the Student Bar Association, served as a board member of the Black Law Students Association, was a Judge Abraham Caruthers Teaching Fellow, and clerked as a legal extern for the Honorable Abdul K. Kallon in the U.S. District Court for the Northern District of Alabama. Additionally, Denzel was a member of Cumberland's *U.S. News* top-ranked National Trial Team and the winner of the Judge James O. Haley Federal Trial Competition.

Prior to attending law school, Denzel earned his undergraduate degree from Birmingham-Southern College where he majored in political science with minors in religious studies and human rights & conflict studies. At Birmingham-Southern, Denzel was elected as President of the Student Government Association, was a Ronald & Donne C. Hess Fellow, and was the recipient of the David J. Vann Award in Political Science.

Honors & Recognition

- Listed in The Best Lawyers in America® Commercial Litigation (2024), Corporate Law (2024), Government Relations Practice (2024)
- Birmingham Business Journal, NextGen: Top Law Award Recipient (2022)
- Birmingham-Southern College, Outstanding Rising Star Award (2022)
- Mid-South Super Lawyers "Rising Star," Business Litigation since 2021
- American Bar Association, Young Lawyers Division Scholarship Award Recipient (2020)
- The Summit Cup Trial Competition, Most Outstanding Advocate Runner-Up (2018)
- Judge James O. Haley Federal Trial Competition Winner (2018)
- Russomanno Leadership Award Recipient (2018)
- Judge Abraham Caruthers Fellow (2017-2018)
- Magic City Bar Association, Outstanding Legal Scholarship Award Recipient (2017)

New Jersey

ADMITTED IN

U.S. District Court - Middle District of Alabama

U.S. District Court - Northern District of Alabama

U.S. District Court - Southern District of Alabama

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News

- Denzel Okinedo Details Opportunity Zone Investment Program and Future Changes for Business Alabama
Media Mention, *Business Alabama*, 12.21.2023
- 58 Burr Attorneys Named to 2023 Mid-South Super Lawyers and Rising Stars List
Firm News, 11.28.2023
- Best Lawyers® 2024 Honors 242 Burr Attorneys, Including 17 "Lawyers of the Year"
Firm News, 08.17.2023
- Birmingham Business Journal Profiles Denzel Okinedo as NextGEN Law Honoree
Firm News, 12.08.2021
- Birmingham Business Journal Recognizes Burr & Forman's Denzel Okinedo in the NextGen BHM: Law Awards for 2021
Firm News, 10.15.2021

Speaking Engagements

- Live CLE Webinar: Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Panel Presentation
Speaking Engagement, 10.21.2021
- University of Alabama Pre-Law Student Association Meeting
Speaking Engagement, 11.20.2020

Articles

- Georgia Appellate Court Overturns Lower Court's Denial of Bond Incentives for Rivian Investment
Article, 06.30.2023
- Alabama Enacts "The Game Plan": Legislation to Enhance the State's Economic Growth
Article, 06.27.2023
- The Status of Alabama Campaign Finance Issues
Articles / Publications, 07.05.2022
- United States Campaign Legislation Update
Articles / Publications, 07.05.2022
- U.S. House Passes Comprehensive Debt Collection Improvement Act
TILA, 05.20.2021

Civic Activities

- Leadership Alabama, Alabama Leadership Initiative Class VI (2023-2024)
- Rotaract Club of Birmingham, Leadership Development Program Co-Chair (2023-2024)

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- Prosper, Community Connectors Advisory Board (2023-Present)
- Birmingham Corps, Board of Directors (2023-Present)
- Birmingham Talks, Advisory Board Member (2023-Present)
- Birmingham-Southern College, Board of Trustees Member (2022-Present) and Young Alumni Council President (2022-Present)
- Gateway, Board of Directors (2022-Present)
- The Randolph School, Board of Trustees (2021-Present)
- City of Birmingham, Mayoral Transition Team Appointee (2021-2022)
- Phoenix Club of Birmingham, Member (2020-Present)
- Short the Squirrel: Literacy for Children, *Founding Advisory Board Member* (2020-2022)
- Glenn Iris Elementary Book Club (2018-2019)
- Cumberland School of Law, Samford University, Student Bar Association President (2018-2019)
- Samford University, Professional & Graduate Student Council (2017-2019)
- Birmingham-Southern College, Student Government Association President (2016-2016)

Professional Activities

- Birmingham Bar Association, President-Elect (2023-Present)
- Birmingham Bar Foundation, Board of Directors (2023-Present)
- Alabama State Bar, Young Lawyers Section Executive Committee (2021-Present), Chair of State-Wide Minority Pre-Law Conference (2022-Present), Elections, Ethics & Government Relations Law Section Member (2020-Present), and Helping Heroes in Healthcare Task Force (2019-2021)
- Magic City Bar Association, Young Lawyers Committee Chair (2021-2022) and Corresponding Secretary (2023-Present)
- Manufacture Alabama, Legal Committee (2023-Present)
- Economic Development Association of Alabama, Member (2022-Present)
- Birmingham Bar Association's Future Leaders Forum, Class of 2021 (2021)
- American Bar Association, Young Lawyers Division Scholar (2020)
- Judge James Edwin Horton American Inn of Court (2018-Present)