

NASHVILLE'S

BEST LAWYERS®

2011 EDITION

THE DEFINITIVE GUIDE TO LEGAL REPRESENTATION IN NASHVILLE

RANDY KINNARD

NASHVILLE'S PERSONAL
INJURY POWERHOUSE

WHO ARE THE
LAWYERS OF THE YEAR?



KINNARD
CLAYTON
& BEVERIDGE
ATTORNEYS AT LAW

A SPECIAL ADVERTISING SUPPLEMENT TO
THE TENNESSEAN
THE WALL STREET JOURNAL

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 **Best Lawyers®**
THE WORLD'S PREMIER GUIDE



NASHVILLE'S BEST LAWYERS® 2011 EDITION

A COMPREHENSIVE GUIDE TO NASHVILLE'S LEGAL TALENT

Nashville's Best Lawyers® helps take the mystery out of locating a high-quality advocate to protect you, your family, your business and all other assets. Keep this comprehensive guide available for those times when you need a first-rate advocate to assist you. The lawyers listed in *Nashville's Best Lawyers* are happy to help.

METHODOLOGY

This list is excerpted from the 2011 edition of *The Best Lawyers in America*®, the preeminent referral guide to the legal profession in the United States. Published for nearly three decades, *Best Lawyers*® lists attorneys in 82 practice areas, representing all 50 states and the District of Columbia, who have been chosen through an exhaustive survey in which thousands of the nation's top lawyers confidentially evaluate their professional peers. The 2011 edition of *Best Lawyers*, which was published in November 2010, is based on more than 3.1 million evaluations of lawyers by other lawyers.

The method used to compile *Best Lawyers* remains unchanged since the first edition was compiled more than 28 years ago. Lawyers are chosen for inclusion based solely on a vote of their peers. Listings cannot be bought, and no purchase is required to be included. In this regard, *Best Lawyers* remains the gold standard of reliability and integrity in lawyer ratings. The nomination pool for the 2011 edition consisted of all lawyers whose names appeared in the previous edition of *Best Lawyers*, lawyers who were nominated since the previous survey, and new nominees solicited from listed attorneys. In general, lawyers were asked to vote only on nominees in their own practice area in their own jurisdiction. Lawyers in closely related practice areas were asked to vote across practice areas, as were lawyers in smaller jurisdictions. Where practice areas are national or international in nature, lawyers were asked to vote nationally as well as locally. Voting lawyers were also given an opportunity to offer more detailed comments on nominees.

Voting lawyers were provided this general guideline for determining if a nominee should be listed: "If you had a close friend or relative who needed a real estate lawyer (for example), and you could not handle the case yourself, to whom would you refer them?" All votes and comments were solicited with a guarantee of confidentiality – a critical factor in the viability and validity of *Best Lawyers* surveys. To ensure the rigor of the selection process, lawyers were urged to use only their highest standards when voting, and to evaluate each nominee based only on his or her individual merits. The additional comments were used to make more accurate comparisons between voting patterns and weight votes accordingly. *Best Lawyers* uses various methodological tools to identify and correct for anomalies in both the nomination and voting process.

Ultimately, of course, a lawyer's inclusion is based on the subjective judgments of his or her fellow attorneys. While it is true that the lists may at times disproportionately reward visibility or popularity, the breadth of the survey, the candor of the respondents, and the sophistication of the polling methodology largely correct for any biases. For all these reasons, *Best Lawyers* lists continue to represent the most reliable, accurate and useful guide to the legal profession in the United States.

Best Lawyers lists are available at www.bestlawyers.com. "Best Lawyers" and "The Best Lawyers in America" are registered trademarks of Woodward/White, Inc.

KINNARD, CLAYTON & BEVERIDGE



From Left: Mary Ellen Morris, Randy Kinnard, Jenney Keaty, Daniel Clayton, Mark Beveridge

RANDALL L. KINNARD
Best Lawyers
Lawyer of the Year
2011

PERSONAL INJURY LITIGATION
NASHVILLE

SELECTED FOR INCLUSION IN
NASHVILLE'S
BEST
LAWYERS
2011 EDITION
MARK S. BEVERIDGE
DANIEL L. CLAYTON

Jeff Frazier

KINNARD, CLAYTON & BEVERIDGE HAS PROVIDED HIGH-QUALITY legal services to victims of others' negligence for more than 30 years. The firm's dedicated attorneys bring more than 100 years of combined experience to the investigation, negotiation and litigation of serious personal injury, vehicular accidents, product liability, medical malpractice and wrongful death cases.

"BY LIMITING THE SCOPE OF OUR PRACTICE TO HELPING SERIOUSLY injured clients or those who have lost a loved one, we are able to maintain high standards of professionalism, dedication and personal attention on every case," says Randy L. Kinnard.

KINNARD FOUNDED THE FIRM IN 1977 WHEN HE BEGAN PRACTICING law in Nashville. As a new, young attorney in town, he was mostly taking smaller cases that other lawyers did not want. But as he started achieving substantial jury verdicts, demand for his legal services increased. Since then, he has carefully selected a team of lawyers and support staff to join his practice.

A HIGHLY DECORATED COMBAT VETERAN, KINNARD SAYS HE ISN'T afraid of a fight, especially when insurance companies fail to offer a fair sum of compensation to his clients. "It has been a growing trend for insurance agencies to settle with plaintiffs outside the courtroom, but we believe in the power and fairness of trial by jury."

A RECENT EXAMPLE OF THE FIRM'S tenaciousness was a case where the insurance companies offered to settle with the firm's client for \$4 million, but Kinnard and Daniel Clayton turned the offer down and obtained a \$22 million verdict. Together the firm's attorneys have successfully tried more than 250 cases in front of juries, including several historical record-breaking verdicts in different counties in Middle Tennessee.

THE FIRM HAS BEEN RATED AS A TIER ONE LAW FIRM IN NASHVILLE in the areas of plaintiffs' personal injury litigation and medical malpractice litigation, and its attorneys have received numerous awards and legal recognitions for their work. Attorneys Mark S. Beveridge, Clayton and Kinnard were all selected for inclusion in this year's edition of *The Best Lawyers in America*®. Kinnard was also recognized by *Best Lawyers* as "Personal Injury Litigation Lawyer of the Year" in Nashville and was inducted into the highly prestigious Inner Circle of Advocates in 2010.

ATTORNEYS AT THE FIRM ARE NOT JUST ADVOCATES FOR THEIR clients: from annual support of Prevent Child Abuse Tennessee to participation with Wounded Warriors Project and Not Alone, the firm continually gives back to Middle Tennessee and works to advance both local and national causes. "We are proponents of safety, accountability and justice within our society," Kinnard says.



Kinnard, Clayton & Beveridge
ATTORNEYS AT LAW

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RANDY KINNARD

Nashville's Personal Injury Lawyer of the Year Fights Hard

Named the “Personal Injury Lawyer of the Year” in Nashville, Randall L. Kinnard has developed a strong reputation for going to war for his clients—and achieving numerous victories—during his 30-year career as a trial attorney.

In one of Kinnard’s many high-profile cases, he won \$6.5 million for a woman who suffered a brain injury after a tubal ligation. At the time, 1987, the record verdict for any case in Middle Tennessee had been \$1 million. In fact, this was the same amount that the insurance company offered Kinnard’s client to settle. But this wasn’t enough.

Kinnard calculated what his client would need to finance her care for the rest of her life. The figure was \$1.3 million, and Kinnard refused to accept a penny less. The insurance company refused, and Kinnard tried the case. During the case, people with the hospital made derogatory comments to Kinnard about his client. They said that because she had four children out of wedlock, she was not entitled to the same amount a married woman would receive.

“This infuriated me, and I was on fire the whole trial,” Kinnard says. “As it turned out, the jury agreed with my client and awarded her \$6.5 million.”

Kinnard was used to fighting for others long before he stepped into a court room or even cracked open a law book. A combat Airborne Ranger and West Point graduate, Kinnard earned the Vietnamese Cross of Gallantry, Purple Heart, and a Bronze Star for Valor and Air Medal for 28 assaults in combat during his two tours in Vietnam.

“In the military, you learn that there is no room for error,” Kinnard says. “You learn to ‘pay the price’ and that success is not just going to happen. You have to make it happen.”

Values of courage and selflessness were honed through his combat experience in Vietnam. He learned how to respond under enemy fire, make critical decisions in life and death situations, and to put the value of another person’s life before his own. After his service, Kinnard decided to become a lawyer because he thrives on intense competition and adrenalin.

“Combat produces the greatest adrenalin you can ever experience,” he says. “I figured court room battle would be about as close as you could come. It turns out that I was right.”

As he approached graduation from law school, some attorneys advised Kinnard that he had the demeanor to make a good defense lawyer.

“The trouble with that suggestion was that I did not

want to defend people or corporations who had hurt people,” says Kinnard, who focuses on helping injured people in vehicular accidents, product liability, wrongful death, medical malpractice and personal injury cases. “By nature, I want to help people who have been hurt. I feel fulfilled when I am able to help someone who has been wrongfully hurt, or help a family who has lost a loved one.”

Early in his career, Kinnard had an opportunity to clerk for fellow West Point graduate, James Cox, whom Kinnard refers to as Tennessee’s best personal injury lawyer during the time that he was in law school.

“He shared many secrets of the practice of trial work with me, even though I was not even out of law school yet,” Kinnard says. “When I started actual practice, I was ahead of the game.”

Last year, the Inner Circle of Advocates, an invitation-only group made up of the 100 best plaintiff lawyers in the United States, selected Kinnard to join its ranks. He is one out of two of the organization’s members from Tennessee. Kinnard attributes his success to the skills he learned in combat, specifically being able to survive through tough, stressful times.

“It always helps to have the support of a good, understanding wife, who is there behind you when you limp home at night,” says Kinnard, who defines his greatest personal achievements as marrying his wife, Peggy, and becoming a father to his children, Cannon and Jessica.

Kinnard’s rich understanding of the experience of military servicemen and women, and the impact of service on families, compels him to give back to the military community through various firm initiatives.

“Our troops have been asked to endure multiple tours of combat since 9/11. Some of them only have a few months with their families before they are ordered to go back to combat yet again,” he says. “Not only does this inevitably stress the individual combatant, it strains their families, sometimes to the breaking point. The suicide rate is dreadful. I know well what these military people are going through. I strongly believe that we owe them.”



Jeff Frazier

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—RANDY KINNARD