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» GENERAL LITIGATION



Michael F. Eubanks and James W. Baechtold

A Tradition of Tough Litigation

Celebrating 100 years of client-focused service.

Shumate, Flaherty, Eubanks & Baechtold

“In our practice, a client with a traffic ticket is as important as a person we’re representing on a murder charge,” says Michael Eubanks, managing partner at the general litigation firm Shumate, Flaherty, Eubanks & Baechtold. The Richmond, Kentucky-based firm specializes in litigation in a range of areas, including state and federal criminal defense, personal injury, workers’ compensation, and family law.

The firm’s equal focus on cases both big and small may sound surprising for attorneys with a reputation for taking on some of Kentucky’s highest profile criminal cases. But it’s also one reason the practice is proudly heading into its 100th year of operation.

“Everything we do can eventually lead to some sort of trial,” says Partner James “Jim” Baechtold. The partners are permitted to try

cases before all state courts and the United States District Court for the Eastern District of Kentucky, and they are licensed to practice before the U.S. Supreme Court. “We will not quit until we’ve gotten the best possible result for every client,” says Baechtold.

A Loyal History

Founded in 1916, members of the Shumate and Flaherty families were partners in the central Kentucky law firm for more than 80 years, until 1999 when partner Peter J. Flaherty passed away. Eubanks, hired in 1979 as one of the first nonfamily

members, has carried on the tradition of his predecessors with Baechtold, who joined in 1996.

“They were all excellent attorneys,” says Eubanks. “We keep the Shumate and Flaherty names to keep the firm’s heritage alive.

“One reason we’ve been around 100 years is that people consider us part of the family,” continues Eubanks, noting that the firm’s four support staff members have each been with the firm for more than 10 years. “We treat every client like we’d want our family members to be treated.”

Determined Litigators

To Eubanks and Baechtold, a family focus means advocating fiercely for clients and working as

a team on the biggest cases. Both lawyers have athletic backgrounds, and they bring that competitive mindset to their work. “When you grow up competing in athletics, that never leaves you. Every case is a competition,” says Eubanks.

That competitive nature is evident in the results reached in their personal injury/wrongful death litigation, where they have achieved both a multimillion dollar settlement in a wrongful death case involving a retail store truck as well as a multimillion dollar verdict in a case against a housing authority in 2013.

The firm draws many of its clients from word-of-mouth referrals based on its record for winning cases. In recent years, the firm has represented clients in more than 35 homicide cases—even appearing on national television. “Only two of those resulted in murder convictions, and those were by plea,” says Baechtold. “We’ve been able to far exceed what a lot of our clients have expected in some of these cases.”

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