

PATRICK C. COOPER

A native of Mobile, Alabama, Patrick is a graduate of Yale College and Yale Law School. At Yale College, he lettered in varsity basketball and was a Burton P. Twitchler Memorial Scholar. During law school Patrick was a Trumbull Residential College Fellow. After graduation, Patrick clerked for then-Chief Judge Sam C. Pointer of the United States District Court for the Northern District of Alabama.

Patrick then worked on Wall Street at Cravath Swaine & Moore, in San Francisco at McCutchen Doyle, and was a litigation partner for many years at Maynard Cooper & Gale in Birmingham, Alabama.

While at Maynard Cooper, Patrick obtained the largest jury verdict for a trade secrets case in the history of Alabama and the third largest jury verdict ever in Jefferson County. He also successfully defended Bear Stearns in the only WorldCom securities action to go to trial. Patrick's clients included Merrill Lynch, Citibank, Bank of America and Harley Davidson. His cases have been covered by The New York Times, the Wall Street Journal, CNN and the Birmingham News.

In 2010, Patrick started his own firm Ward & Cooper where he specializes in complex class actions in the areas of securities fraud, consumer fraud and antitrust. He was co-lead trial counsel in a multi-state unfair trade practices class action against Sturm Foods that settled for \$25 million. He was co-lead in a securities class action that settled for \$90 million. He is currently co-lead in a consumer class arbitration against Spirit Airlines involving its \$9 Fare Club.

Patrick has been recognized as Best of the Bar and as a Super Lawyer.

Patrick's *pro bono* work includes a successful wrongful death action against the rapper Tupac Shakur for the killing of a young child (which was mentioned in the movie *All Eyez on Me*), a seminal race discrimination suit brought on behalf of African-American and Hispanic employees against the City and County of San Francisco, and an action representing Black customers against Dillard's.

Patrick was an Alabama Bar Examiner who created and graded the Alabama Civil Procedure section. He also served on the ABA Commission on Racial and Ethnic Diversity in the Profession.

Additionally, Patrick served on the Board of Trustees to the Birmingham Museum of Art as well as on the Boards of Sloss Furnaces and the McWane Science Center. He founded a non-profit called Birmingham Vision that taught chess to children living in the Birmingham public housing projects and took them to tournaments around the region.

Patrick also coached over 100 inner-city girls in the Alabama Roadrunners basketball program who went on to play college. One former player is the women's head basketball coach at Stony Brook University; one played on the 2024 Serbian Olympic Team; and another was SEC Player of the Year, the No. 3 pick in the WNBA draft, 2x WNBA Champion, and the 2d leading scorer in the history of the league.

Patrick is the Chairman of the Board of Directors and majority shareholder of Commonwealth National Bank. He is a member of the Board of Directors of the National Bankers Association ("NBA"), the trade association for minority depository institutions. He also served as Vice-Chair of the NBA Foundation.