

Practice areas

Accounting malpractice defense
Administrative law
Asbestos litigation
Alternative dispute resolution
Bad faith litigation
Commercial litigation
Construction litigation
Legal malpractice defense
Medical malpractice defense
Insurance coverage and defense
Products liability
Civil litigation
Appellate practice
Directors & officers liability
Nursing home defense
Healthcare law
Restaurant and hospitality law
Toxic Torts

Professional memberships

Charleston County Bar Association
(past president)
South Carolina Bar Association
*(2018-2019 president;
past member, Board of Governors)*
American Bar Association
Federal Bar Association
American College of Trial Lawyers, *Fellow*
American Board of Trial Advocates
(past president, Charleston Chapter)
American Association for Justice
SC Defense Trial Attorneys Association
Defense Research Institute
American Health Lawyers Association
International Association of Defense
Counsel
James L. Petigru American Inn of Court
(past president)
South Carolina Commission on Judicial
Independence and Impartiality
(former chairman)
National Association of College and
University Attorneys
Fourth Circuit Judicial Conference,
permanent member

Court admissions

All South Carolina courts
U.S. District Court for the District of S.C.
U.S. Court of Appeals for the Fourth Circuit
U.S. Supreme Court

M. Dawes Cooke, Jr.

Attorney at Law
Member

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M. Dawes Cooke Jr.'s practice focuses on complex civil litigation, professional liability defense, construction defect litigation, products liability litigation and personal injury litigation. He is also a much sought after mediator and arbitrator, and he frequently lectures on the subject of alternative dispute resolution. He is admitted to the South Carolina Bar and the United States Supreme Court Bar. Cooke is a Fellow in the American College of Trial Lawyers. He holds a Martindale-Hubbell Preeminent rating (the highest, formerly called AV), and is listed in *The Best Lawyers in America* in the areas of bet-the-company litigation, commercial litigation, personal injury litigation for defendants, personal injury litigation for plaintiffs, arbitration, and mediation. *Best Lawyers* has named Cooke the Mediation Lawyer of the Year, the Arbitration Lawyer of the Year, the Bet-the-Company Litigator of the Year and the Personal Injury Litigation Litigator of the Year. *Chambers USA* recognizes Cooke for his work in the areas of complex civil disputes, professional liability defense and personal injury litigation. *Benchmark Litigation* has named him as a Local Litigation Star in the areas of insurance, product liability, medical malpractice, and construction. He is also regularly listed in *Super Lawyers* as one of the top 10 attorneys in the state of South Carolina, and was ranked number one attorney in the state in 2014, 2015 and 2016. He was profiled in the April 2011 edition. The South Carolina Association for Justice awarded him the "Worthy Adversary Award" in 2013 and *Charleston Business Magazine* named him to the lowcountry *Legal Elite* list in the area of insurance law.

A native of Beaufort, South Carolina, Cooke received his undergraduate degree from the University of Virginia, where he graduated with High Distinction. He earned his J.D. from the University of South Carolina *cum laude*, where he served as Clerk of Court for the Society of Wig and Robe and as Symposium Editor of the University of South Carolina Law Review. In 1993, he received an Honorary Doctor of Laws degree from The Citadel, The Military College of South Carolina. Cooke served as a law clerk for the Honorable Sol Blatt, Jr., U.S. District Judge for South Carolina and as a governor's appointee to the South Carolina Joint Legislative Automobile Insurance Study Committee. He is past president of the Charleston Chapter of the American Board of Trial Advocates, past president of the Charleston County Bar Association, past president of the James L. Petigru American Inn of Court, and past chairman of the South Carolina Bar's Commission on Judicial Independence and Impartiality.

A past president of the South Carolina Bar, Cooke is currently a member of the SC Bar's Dispute Resolution Section Council and the Professional Liability Committee. He is a permanent member of the Fourth Circuit Judicial Conference and a member of the Defense Research Institute, the International Association of Defense Counsel (IADC), and the National Association of College and University Attorneys. He is a former member of the Fourteenth Judicial Circuit Public Defender selection committee.