



#### Education and Bar Admissions

- The University of Toledo, B.A., 2014
- Cleveland State University, Monte Ahuja College of Business, MBA, 2022
- Cleveland State University College of Law, J.D., 2022
- Supreme Court of Indiana, 2022
- U.S. District Court, Northern District of Indiana, 2023
- U.S. District Court, Southern District of Indiana, 2023

## Michael R. Watkins

mwatkins@lewiswagner.com

Tel: 317-453-8706

Legal Assistant: Sydney Cooper

Tel: 317.237.0500 | scooper@lewiswagner.com

Michael takes pride in being strategic, efficient, and diligent in helping clients resolve legal disputes. He strives to provide the highest quality service, through empathy and integrity that brings distinguished awareness to each client's unique needs.

#### Practice Areas

Class Action Defense  
Drug & Medical Device  
Labor & Employment  
Product Liability  
Professional Liability  
Toxic Tort

#### Biography

Michael is an associate in Lewis Wagner's labor and employment group, focusing primarily on complex tort and professional liability. His interest in law began while attending Shaw High School in East Cleveland, Ohio, where he participated in the Cleveland Metropolitan Bar Association's 3Rs program. Michael graduated from the University of Toledo, as well as both Cleveland State University's College of Law and Monte Ahuja College of Business. Michael attended CSU as a part-time JD/MBA student while simultaneously working in his hometown as a community youth diversion coordinator/enrichment specialist with the East Cleveland Neighborhood Center. Utilizing his teaching background and connections to the community, he taught K-2nd grade science and 4th-12th grade social and emotional learning and coordinated services for pre-adjudicated youth to reduce recidivism and minimize juvenile justice system involvement.

While attending law school, Michael completed a prestigious internship with Ohio Supreme Court Justice Melody Stewart. In addition, he held the role of editor-in-chief of *The Global Business Law Review*, vice president of the Environmental Law Society, contributor to *The Gavel* newspaper, and alumni outreach and engagement committee chair for the Black Law Students Association.

#### Accolades, Affiliations and Activities

- Black Law Student Association – Alumni Outreach & Engagement Committee Chair, 2020-2021
- Cleveland State College of Law's *The Gavel* – Newsletter Contributor, 2019-2021
- The Environmental Law Association – Vice President, 2020-2022
- *The Global Business Law Review* – Editor-in-Chief, 2020-2021
- Indianapolis Bar Association – Diversity Job Fair Outreach Scholarship Recipient, 2023
- Indiana State Bar Association

#### Publications and Presentations

- "The Current State of the World," *The Gavel*, December 2020.
- "Global Business Law Review Welcomes Its Largest class of Associates Since the Creation of the Journal," *The Gavel*, October 2020.
- "Current Issues in LGBTQ Non-Discrimination Law," *The Gavel*, December 2019.