

Ivan Gustafson

Ivan Gustafson, the son of a U.S. Marine Major General, grew up in an environment in which one's word is sacred, and duty and honor are prized values. Ivan carries these values in to the courtroom and is frequently complimented by opposing counsel for his ability to press a vigorous defense position while being faithful to his core values of candor and trustworthiness. He is an avid student of the science of decision making and juror persuasion and values what he can learn by both talking to, and listening to, people from all walks of life.

Admitted to the Bars of West Virginia (1984), Georgia (1988), Mississippi (2003) and Texas (2006) Ivan graduated Magna Cum Laude from Dickinson College with a Bachelor of Science degree. He received his Juris Doctor from the University Of Virginia School Of Law and his focus has been products liability and general civil litigation.

Ivan has concentrated his practice in toxic torts, principally the defense of asbestos injury claims, since 1987 and has won asbestos cases in each of the last four decades. Before this specialization, he had a general practice in a small town where he was exposed to the many ways law impacts people's lives.

Ivan credits this experience with giving him both the ability to tap into the core values of jurors at trial and an excellent feel for the presentation of complex issues to them. While at Evert Weathersby Houff Ivan has been able to use his experience on a national level, assisting in the development of national trial and discovery strategies to allow clients to examine, test, revise and adapt to evolving litigation realities.

Ivan has spent his legal career in the implementation and improvement of mass and repetitive tort litigation strategies for his clients. He has focused upon and has experience in the adaptation of national defense strategies to the circumstances and conditions of the case being litigated. Consistent with the firm philosophy of innovative adaptation, Ivan understands that trial tactics must adapt to the

unpredictable circumstances that every trial presents, but that those adaptations must not compromise the strategic goals of the client.

Ivan has acted as lead trial counsel in asbestos trials in Arkansas, California, Florida, Georgia, Mississippi, South Carolina, Texas and West Virginia. Ivan co-authored a chapter of the first edition of Dr. Victor Roggli's definitive work on asbestos-related disease and maintains extensive contact and access to experts in all medical and scientific specialty fields related to the trial of asbestos cases. Ivan is frequently called upon by clients to provide specific attention to significant litigation matters.

Ivan is responsible for the management cases and acts in the lead counsel role in local jurisdictions in Florida, Georgia and Mississippi.