

JAMES H. FRAZIER, III

Chief Executive Officer

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HONORS & AWARDS

- The Best Lawyers in America®, 2012-2019, 2021-2027, Real Estate Law The Best Lawyers in America®, 2019-2027, Litigation - Real Estate The Best Lawyers in America® "Lawyer of the Year", 2021, Litigation - Real Estate
- Kentucky Super Lawyers®, 2013-2025 (Real Estate)
- Chambers USA, "Leaders in their Field", 2016 (Real Estate: Zoning/Land Use Kentucky)
- 2012 Top Rated Corporate Real Estate Lawyer
- Best Lawyers' 2012 Lexington Real Estate Law Lawyer of the Year
- AV® Preeminent Peer Review Rated by Martindale-

Jim Frazier has been a transformative leader at McBrayer for more than three decades, shaping both the firm's trajectory and the communities it serves. Beginning his tenure as Managing Member in 1993, his impact on the law firm that he continues to guide the direction of is almost as momentous as the mark he has left on his community. Jim's leadership reflects a clear vision for McBrayer as a Kentucky firm with international reach, grounded in exceptional client service, innovation, and purposeful growth. A seasoned dealmaker, Jim brings deep experience across real estate, bankruptcy, mergers and acquisitions, and corporate law. His work in energy and mineral law, including coal and emerging solar development, has positioned him as a trusted advisor in key industries across Kentucky.

Clients turn to Jim for guidance in complex transactions, restructurings, and sensitive organizational disputes. His experience includes managing commercial real estate projects, directing student housing developments, overseeing receiverships for corporate, nonprofit, and faith-based entities, and handling intricate coal and mineral asset transactions. His ability to navigate financial, operational, and legal challenges makes him an invaluable partner to business owners, executives, lenders, and boards. Jim's impact extends well beyond private practice. He serves as the Master Commissioner

Hubbell®

- Top Attorney in Kentucky, 2009

PRIMARY PRACTICE

Real Estate Law

Planning and Zoning

Real Estate Development

Bankruptcy

Mergers and Acquisitions

Business and Corporate Law

Energy Law

Coal

ADDITIONAL PRACTICE EXPERIENCE

Banking, Lending and Finance

Business Formation and Planning

Business Succession Planning

Commercial Lending

Corporate and Business Tax Law

Debt & Equity Finance

Divestitures and Spinoffs

Economic Development and Business Incentives

Entrepreneurial Law

Receivership

Regulatory Compliance

Sales and Dissolutions

Securities and Corporate Finance

Shopping Center and Retail Development

ADMISSIONS

Kentucky, 1979

of the Fayette Circuit Court, as well as serving as the Chair of the Kentucky Master Commissioners Advisory Board. Jim also serves as the Chair of the board of the Lexington Parking Authority. Completing his commitment to improving his community, Jim served two terms as the first-ever Chair of the Downtown Lexington Management District, an organization that uses collected property taxes to foster economic development to create a flourishing downtown for both visitors and locals to enjoy.

CAPABILITIES, SUCCESSES, AND ASSIGNMENTS:

- Assists with condemnations as an appraiser
- Handles liquidations and other bankruptcy matters as a trustee or as Master Commissioner
- Insured and bonded to serve in receiverships
- Handles commercial real estate acquisitions
- Manages student housing development projects across the state of Kentucky
- Manages coal transactions, including leases, permitting, coal sales contracts, asset purchases, equity interest transactions, transportation agreements, overriding royalty agreements, consulting contracts, and contract mining agreements
- Deaccessed hundreds of millions of dollars of assets in private sale and private auctions for coal and hemp companies
- Serves as Fayette Circuit Court Master Commissioner
- Appointed as Assignee/Trustee in Assignment for Benefit of Creditors of large multi-company coal corporation; Court appointed Chief Liquidation Officer for Appalachian Holding Company, Inc., a Chapter 11 Bankruptcy liquidation of coal companies in two states
- Appointed as Receiver in the matter of Manalapan Land Company and Black Star Land Company, two family-owned land and coal companies feuding over the assets of the company following the death of the senior and controlling

Florida, 2007

Texas, 1997

U.S. District Court Eastern District of Kentucky, 1980

U.S. District Court Western District of Kentucky, 1996

U.S. Court of Appeals 6th Circuit, 1992

U.S. Supreme Court, 2007

EDUCATION

University of Kentucky College of Law, Lexington, Kentucky, J.D., 1979

- Honors: Phi Delta Phi
- Honors: Phi Alpha Theta, President, 1976
- Honors: Member, Moot Court Board

Transylvania University, Lexington, Kentucky, B.A., 1976

- Major: History

member of the companies

- Appointed as Receiver in the foreclosure action of Central Bank vs. Imani Baptist Church to manage, preserve and liquidate the assets of the church during the pendency of the foreclosure action for the benefit of the creditors
- Appointed as Receiver in the matter of Ashland Oil/Valvoline to take possession of and manage the locally owned real estate of the companies during the stages of final separation of Valvoline from Ashland Global Holdings, Inc.
- Appointed as Receiver for Southern Acres Christian Church to take charge of the church's financial affairs following the ouster of its senior pastor by the newly-elected board of elders for the church.
- Appointed as Receiver in Amerra Capital Management LLC v. Elemental Processing LLC to manage, preserve and liquidate the assets of a hemp processing facility with locations in three cities in two states.
- Appointed as Receiver in MWI, LLC v. CenterCourt I, LLC to manage and preserve an ongoing commercial apartment and retail complex in Lexington, Fayette County, Kentucky.

News

IN THE MEDIA - Fifty McBrayer Attorneys Recognized by *Best Lawyers® for 2027*
August 20, 2026

IN THE MEDIA - McBrayer Leadership Transition Featured in *Smiley Pete's The Business of Law*
March 31, 2026

IN THE MEDIA - McBrayer Leaders Featured on Evolving Law Firm Leadership and Succession Planning
January 26, 2026

Celebrating Excellence: 40 McBrayer Attorneys Recognized by Super Lawyers
December 16, 2025

IN THE MEDIA - McBrayer Featured for Leadership Transition and New CEO Role
December 4, 2025

IN THE MEDIA - McBrayer Leadership Transition Featured in The Lane Report
December 3, 2025

Building on Strength: A New Chapter Begins at McBrayer
December 2, 2025

McBrayer PLLC Achieves Record-Breaking Recognition in *Best Lawyers in America® 2026*
August 21, 2025

McBrayer Once Again Recognized in Kentucky Chamber's Best Places to Work
March 7, 2025

Leading the Way in Legal Excellence: 38 McBrayer Attorneys Honored in 2025 Super Lawyers and Rising Stars Lists
December 17, 2024

New Record Set: 51 McBrayer Attorneys Honored in Best Lawyers 2025
August 15, 2024

McBrayer Named to Kentucky Chamber List of Best Places to Work in Kentucky for 2024
March 15, 2024

McBrayer Earns Record Number Named to Super Lawyers Lists for 2024
January 9, 2024

MML&K Government Solutions and McBrayer PLLC Team Up in New Frankfort Location
December 20, 2023

Another Record! 49 McBrayer Attorneys Named to Best Lawyers® 2024
August 17, 2023

25 McBrayer Attorneys Named to Super Lawyers and Rising Stars Lists for 2023
December 29, 2022

A Record Number! Thirty McBrayer Attorneys Named to *Best Lawyers® in America* Lists for 2023
August 18, 2022

Managing Member James H. Frazier, III, Makes Remarks at State of Downtown Lexington
June 29, 2022

Managing Member James Frazier Brings Increased Security Efforts to Lexington as Head of Downtown Lexington Management District
February 16, 2022

22 McBrayer Attorneys Recognized in 2022 Edition of Super Lawyers
December 30, 2021

McBrayer Attorneys Named to *Best Lawyers® in America* List for 2022
August 19, 2021

Managing Member James Frazier Speaks at State of Downtown Lexington Presentation
June 24, 2021

Managing Member Jim Frazier Honored as "2020 Outstanding Individual" by Downtown Lexington Partnership
May 25, 2021

McBrayer Managing Member James H. Frazier, III, featured in SCG Legal Video
March 2, 2021

Managing Member James H. Frazier, III, Member Ivan Schell, Senior Attorney Katie Eckert Quoted in The Lane Report
The Lane Report, February 2, 2021

Once Again, McBrayer Attorneys Receive Super Lawyers Distinctions for 2021
Super Lawyers, December 10, 2020

McBrayer Again Ranked on List of Best Law Firms in Multiple Practice Areas
November 5, 2020

McBrayer Members James H. Frazier, III, Stephen Amato, Cindy Effinger, Luke Morgan quoted in The Lane Report
The Lane Report, October 19, 2020

McBrayer Managing Member James H. Frazier, III, Quoted in The Lane Report
The Lane Report, September 23, 2020

McBrayer Attorneys Named to *Best Lawyers® in America* List for 2021
August 20, 2020

Managing Member James Frazier Interviewed by Law Practice Today
Law Practice Today, June 19, 2020

McBrayer Member James H. Frazier, III Quoted in The Lane Report
The Lane Report, March 2, 2020

We Made the List Again! McBrayer Attorneys Receive Super Lawyers Distinctions for 2020
Super Lawyers, December 2, 2019

Downtown Lexington Management District Renewal
October 25, 2019

McBrayer Attorneys receive U.S. News Best Lawyers Distinction for 2020
U.S. News – Best Lawyers® in America, September 4, 2019

Law Firms Forecast Another Strong Year
The Lane Report, February 6, 2019

Property Improvement Grant Program helps Revitalize Downtown Storefront
February 6, 2019

McBrayer Attorneys receive U.S. News Best Lawyers and Super Lawyers Distinctions for 2019
December 19, 2018

McBrayer attorneys named to U.S. News Best Lawyers including 3 Lawyer of the Year honors
Attorneys from McBrayer law offices in Lexington and Louisville achieved a 2018 listing in U.S. News Best Lawyers in America
August 15, 2017

Art and Style Light Up Downtown Lexington
Under Main, February 9, 2017

Purple shirts, power washing and other steps to turn downtown Lexington into 'hub of activity'
October 24, 2016

Purple Revolution: Jim Frazier and the Downtown Lexington Management District strive to enhance Lexington's burgeoning downtown
September 14, 2016

James H. Frazier and Jack A. Wheat recognized by Chambers USA
Chambers USA 2016 recognizes McBrayer attorneys as 'Leaders in their Field'
Chambers USA, March 29, 2016

Seminars & Speaking Engagements

13th Biennial Real Estate Law & Practice Institute
Foreclosures & Insolvency Issues
Lexington, Kentucky, February 2, 2016

Articles

Legal Practice Makes Profits in 2015
Firms that are keeping up with growing demand in a fast-changing economy expect a prosperous year
The Lane Report, 2015

Professional Activities

- Kentucky Master Commissioners Advisory Board, Chair, 2023-Present
- Fayette Circuit Court, Master Commissioner, 2008-Present
- Florida Bar Association, Member, 2007-Present
- Louisville Bar Association, Member, 2006-Present
- Texas Bar Association, Member, 1997-Present
- Fayette Circuit Court, Deputy Master Commissioner, 1992-2008
- Kentucky Bar Association, Member, 1979-Present
- Fayette County Bar Association, Member, 1979-Present
- Board of Governors, 1981-1986
- President, 1992-1993
- Board of Directors, 1992-1994
- American Bar Association, Member, 1979-Present