

# Birmingham Business Journal Names Chris Couch to its Best of the Bar

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McGlinchey Stafford is pleased to announce that the Birmingham Business Journal has named Member **Christopher P. Couch** to its 2021 Best of the Bar, which honors excellence within the city's legal industry.

National, regional, and community banks and other financial institutions rely on Chris for his thoughtful advice with respect to regulatory and operational matters, as well as issues relating to compliance with banking and lending laws, rules, and regulations. He also assists clients with issues relating to FinTech — such as deposit operations, payment systems, and electronic and mobile banking. As a Certified Information Privacy Professional, he guides them on how to structure technology agreements that address data privacy and cybersecurity concerns. Chris serves as McGlinchey's Chief Privacy Officer, co-leads the firm's Cybersecurity and Data Privacy practice group, and is a member of the firm's Policy (Executive) Committee.

For its Best of the Bar honors, the Birmingham Business Journal considers nominees' reputation in their practice area, contributions to Birmingham's legal industry, and their accomplishments in the field.

"Chris is dedicated to keeping up with the latest challenges that arise within the context of financial industry regulation and operations," said **Michael Ferachi**, Managing Member of McGlinchey. "Based on the relationships he has fostered with long-standing clients and the creativity on which he draws to solve every client issue he encounters, it is no surprise that he is among Birmingham's Best of the Bar."

In a recent interview in connection with the honor, Chris discussed that banks' increasing reliance on technology to deliver client services is the hot topic in his field. "The tension between speed and ease of use, data utility and security, and consumer protection presents a complex regulatory thicket," he said.

He also added that there are new types of cases arising from the global pandemic in which he is finding room for creativity. "Data security, HR practices, remote notarization, PPP applications/use/forgiveness, foreclosure relief, troubled debt restructuring, and low rates — our clients have seen it all this year, and every hurdle creates an opportunity for creativity," Chris said.

## Related people

Christopher P. Couch

Michael D. Ferachi