

WILLIAM T. CHEEK, III

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With a well-earned reputation as the go-to attorney for alcoholic beverage law in the state of Tennessee, Will Cheek leads Waller's alcoholic beverage law team. Hotels, restaurants, arts venues, night clubs, sports facilities and other retailers benefit from Will's insight, experience and enthusiasm with licensing and regulatory compliance issues related to liquor, beer, dance, catering and special event licensing throughout Tennessee. Additionally, Will provides counsel to distilleries and breweries based in Tennessee as well as national spirit producers operating within the state.

Will represents clients before the Tennessee Alcoholic Beverage Commission and local beer boards in licensing matters, enforcement actions and administrative hearings. Working in concert with Waller's Government Relations team, Will has extensive experience drafting state and local liquor legislation. Will also represents clients in state court actions challenging existing ordinances and statutes and regulations.

Will is also a trusted legal adviser to startup businesses and emerging companies in a wide range of industries. Serving as "on-call general counsel," he has played a critical role in the growth and success of prominent companies ranging from Nashville-based Gigi's Cupcakes, the largest cupcake chain in the country, to Kraft CPAs, one of Tennessee's largest independent accounting firms.

Honors and Recognitions

Will is the only Tennessee attorney recognized by *Best Lawyers* in the category of Food and Beverage Law. He has also been honored in the *Nashville Business Journal's* "Best of the Bar" and the *Nashville Post's* "In Charge" features. Will also authors the blog [Last Call](#), covering Tennessee alcohol, restaurant and hospitality news.

Education

- J.D., Vanderbilt University Law School, 1991
- B.A., Columbia University, 1986

Bar Admissions

- Tennessee

Court Admissions

- United States Supreme Court
- U.S. Court of Appeals for the Sixth Circuit
- U.S. District Court, Middle District of Tennessee
- U.S. Bankruptcy Court, Middle District of Tennessee

Professional

- Member, National Conference of State Liquor Administrators
- Founding Member, Alliance of Alcohol Industry Attorneys and Consultants
- Member and Frequent Programming Co-Chair, Lawyers Association for Women
- Member, National Association of Alcoholic Beverage Licensing Attorneys
- Advisory Board Member and Legal Counsel, National Association of Licensing and Compliance Professionals
- Founding Angel Partner, The Entrepreneur Center
- Co-founder, Belmont University Center for Entrepreneurship Legal Clinic
- Member, Nashville, Tennessee and American Bar Associations
- Member, ABA Administrative Law Section

Prior Affiliations

- Partner, Bone McAllester Norton PLLC, Nashville, Tenn., 2006-2017
- Judicial Clerk, to the Honorable Martha C. Daughtrey, Tennessee Supreme Court

Community

- Member, Board of Directors, Tennessee State Fair Association
- Member, Board of Directors, Tennessee History for Kids
- Legal Counsel, Conexion Americas
- Founding Member, Family Council at Cheekwood
- Legal Counsel, Leadership Music
- Leadership Nashville, Class of 2007
- Legal Counsel, Nashville Originals
- Legal Counsel, Nashville Pride
- Former Chair and Commissioner, Metro Nashville Arts Commission
- Former Chair and Founding Member, Board of Directors; Current Legal Counsel, Belcourt Theatre
- Former Board of Directors Chair and Current Legal Counsel Center for Non-Profit Management
- Former Member, Board of Directors, Children's House of Nashville
- Former President, Board of Directors Community Resource Center

Up Close

Will is married to one of Nashville's most successful litigators, Kathryn Barnett. Will and Kathryn have two children, Christopher and Ella, and live in an historic home just off Music Row in Nashville. A self-described "foodie," he enjoys sampling the city's new and unique restaurants. He is also an avid music

fan, having seen hundreds of live shows. These days, has fun introducing his young family to his passion for live and recorded music.

Articles

- "Photos from Liquor Conferences," Authored by William T. Cheek III., Waller Law Blog
- "Tennessee Department of Revenue Revamps Liquor-by-the-Drink Bond Process," Authored by William T. Cheek III, Waller Law Blog

Media Mentions

- "Sunday sales start this weekend," Will Cheek quoted on NashvillePost.com
- "Tennessee is one step away from wine, liquor sales on Sundays," Will Cheek quoted on Fox17 News
- "Get Ready for Even More Whiskey Out of Tennessee," Will Cheek quoted in Food & Wine
- "Tennessee's booze-makers drink in big savings under new tax law," Will Cheek quoted in The Tennessean
- "Wine and liquor sales on Sunday? Tennessee lawmakers are trying to make it happen," Will Cheek quoted in The Tennessean
- "Waller recruits Cheek, other alcohol attorneys," Nashville Post
- "Waller snags leading booze team from rival," Nashville Business Journal