



## Amy Rao Mohan

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Amy Rao Mohan provides a practical, problem-solving approach for her clients whether it involves litigation, crisis management or general counsel work.

As a former Emmy-award winning television journalist, Amy brings a unique approach to the law to develop effective approaches to protect her clients' interests and reputations inside and outside of the courtroom. She takes pride in her ability to connect with clients, ease their minds during a crisis, and provide them with a clear path forward. Founder and leader of the firm's crisis management/media relations practice group, Amy represents individuals and businesses in civil litigation and criminal cases and assists clients with media training and press strategies.

Amy also spends much of her time as a litigator, primarily handling business litigation, health care liability actions, and defamation and other tort cases. Amy has tried several complex multi-week jury trials during her career.

When not handling a crisis or arguing in a courtroom, Amy focuses her practice on general counsel work, providing counsel to businesses on corporate, employment and litigation matters. Much of this work involves advising public charter schools and independent schools throughout the Middle Tennessee area, providing schools with practical, student-focused solutions.

A graduate of Northwestern University's Medill School of Journalism, Amy worked as a television reporter and anchor for nearly eight years, most recently at WTVF NewsChannel 5 in Nashville, before attending law school. During that time, she received several awards, including two Emmy awards for her coverage of the 2004 Asian tsunami. Amy earned her J.D. from the University of Tennessee College of Law, where she was a member of the *Order of the Coif*. In law school, she served on the National Moot Court Team, which placed second in the nation her first year on the team.

Prior to joining Sherrard Roe, Amy served as a law clerk to the Honorable Gilbert S. Merritt, U.S. Court of Appeals for the Sixth Circuit. Amy is passionate about her pro bono work, primarily representing individuals on Tennessee’s death row.

When not serving her clients, Amy enjoys spending time with her two boys, which often involves exploring Middle Tennessee’s soccer fields.

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## Education

- University of Tennessee College of Law, J.D., *magna cum laude*, Concentration in Advocacy and Dispute Resolution
  - 2011 National Moot Court Competition, Second Best Oralist
  - James L. Powers III Excellence in Criminal Advocacy Award
  - Member, *Order of the Barristers*
  - Member, *Order of the Coif*
  - Robert E. Pryor Award of Excellence in Advocacy
  - Susan B. Devitt Award for Excellence in Oral and Written Advocacy
- Northwestern University Medill School of Journalism, B.S.J.

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## Admissions

- Tennessee
- U.S. Court of Appeals, Sixth Circuit
- U.S. District Court, Middle District of Tennessee
- U.S. District Court, Western District of Tennessee

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## Recognition

- *Best Lawyers in America*®, Appellate Practice (2025 – 2026); Civil Rights Law (2025 – 2026); Commercial Litigation (2024 – 2026)
- *Best Lawyers in America*® “Ones to Watch” (2021 – 2023)
- *Mid-South Super Lawyers* “Rising Star,” Business Litigation, General Litigation, Communications (2015 – 2022)
- *Nashville Business Journal* “Best of the Bar” (2023)
- *Nashville Business Journal* “40 Under 40” (Class of 2019)
- PRNEWS “Top Women,” Industry Champion (Class of 2025)
- Tennessee Bar Association Harris Gilbert Pro Bono Attorneys of the Year Award (2025)
- Tennessee Supreme Court Attorneys for Justice Pro Bono Honor Roll (2020)

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## Publications

- Amy Mohan, [The Glass Isn’t Always Half-Empty](#), Sherrard Roe Blog (December 21, 2023)
- Amy Mohan, [Boredom in the Jury Box](#), Sherrard Roe Blog (December 7, 2023)
- Amy Mohan, [Misinformation Can Burn Your Business](#), Sherrard Roe Blog (October 25, 2023)
- Amy Mohan, [Know Your Audience](#), Sherrard Roe Blog (February 16, 2023)
- Amy Mohan, [Sherrard Roe Attorneys Contribute Amicus Brief to Overturn Unconstitutional Sentencing](#), Sherrard Roe Blog (December 20, 2022)
- Amy Mohan, [The World Cup Needs a Soccer Mom](#), Sherrard Roe Blog (December 15, 2022)
- Amy Mohan, [Creating a Disaster Preparedness Plan](#), Sherrard Roe Blog (November 15, 2022)
- Amy Mohan, [Producing Good Content for Juries](#), Sherrard Roe Blog (August 11, 2022)
- Amy Mohan, [Advice From a Tiger](#), Sherrard Roe Blog (July 13, 2022)
- Amy Mohan, [Media Training: Maybe Practice Can Make Perfect](#), Sherrard Roe Blog (June 13, 2022)
- Amy Mohan, [Speaking to the Press without the Protection of Privilege](#), Sherrard Roe Blog (May 12, 2022)
- Amy Mohan, [History Revised](#), Sherrard Roe Blog (April 14, 2022)
- Amy Mohan, [Are You Creating News?](#), Sherrard Roe Blog (March 10, 2022)

- Amy Mohan, [What's Love Got to Do With It?](#), Sherrard Roe Blog (February 10, 2022)
- Amy Mohan, [Consistency Builds Credibility](#), Sherrard Roe Blog (January 19, 2022)
- Amy Mohan, [Lessons from the Jury Box](#), Sherrard Roe Blog (November 9, 2021)
- Amy Mohan, [Think Like a Reporter](#), Sherrard Roe Blog (October 12, 2021)
- Amy Mohan, [Gold Standard for Crisis Messaging](#), Sherrard Roe Blog (August 10, 2021)
- Amy Mohan, [Avoid the Ostrich Method](#), Sherrard Roe Blog (July 13, 2021)
- Amy Mohan, [Planning Today for Tomorrow's Crisis](#), Sherrard Roe Blog (June 21, 2021)
- Amy Mohan, [Controlling the Crisis Message: Build Trust Early and Often](#), Sherrard Roe Blog (February 14, 2021)
- Amy Mohan, [Can Politeness to the Press Help in a Crisis?](#), Sherrard Roe Blog (February 1, 2021)
- ["My Time on Death Row,"](#) Tennessee Bar Journal, Vol. 56, No. 9, November 1, 2020
- Amy Mohan, [Back to Basics: Crisis Management Strategy During COVID-19](#), Sherrard Roe Blog (April 27, 2020)
- Amy Mohan, [COVID-19 Convention and Meeting Cancellations](#), Sherrard Roe Blog (March 20, 2020)
- Amy Mohan, [Lawyers: You Have the Right to Remain Silent, but What You Don't Say Will Be Held Against You](#), Sherrard Roe Blog (February 24, 2015)
- Amy Mohan, [The Wisdom of Internal Investigations: What to Take Away from the NFL'S Response to the Ray Rice Incident](#), Sherrard Roe Blog (September 19, 2014)
- Amy Mohan, [Bloggers Beware: Defamation](#), Sherrard Roe Blog (September 18, 2014)
- Amy Mohan, [Why Attorneys Should Embrace Crisis Communications](#), Sherrard Roe Blog (August 28, 2014)

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## Speaking Engagements

- Provided media training for attorneys, Presenter, Tennessee Bar Association Leadership Law Program (2022 – 2024)
- "Investigative Journalism," Moderator, Tennessee Bar Association Reporters Workshop (April 19, 2024)
- Provided media training for attorneys, Presenter, Tennessee Public Defenders Conference (2023)
- "An Inside Look at Investigative Journalism," Moderator, Tennessee Bar Association Reporters Workshop (April 28, 2023)
- "Beyond a Reasonable Doubt: How the Tennessee Innocence Project & the Davidson County District Attorney Review Wrongful Conviction Cases," Moderator, Lawyers' Association for Women – Marion Griffin Chapter (March 15, 2022)
- "Turning Participation Into Power: A Water Justice Case Study," Panelist, Vanderbilt Law School and the Environmental Law Institute's Annual Symposium, (February 28, 2022)
- Interviewer of Exoneree Amanda Knox, The Innocence Project's Continuing the Fight (November 2021)
- "A Review of Media/Defamation Cases Nationwide in the Past Year," Presenter, Tennessee Bar Association's Communications Law Forum (April 16, 2021)
- "Social Media Discovery: How to be an Internet Sleuth," Co-Presenter, Making the Most of Discovery: What You Don't Know Can Come Back to Haunt You, Tennessee Bar Association (April 7, 2016)
- "Managing Media Madness: Crisis Communications for All Lawyers," Co-Presenter with Dewey Branstetter, Tennessee Bar Association (March 19, 2015)
- "Casting a Wide Net: How to Ethically Use Social Media to Advertise," Co-Presenter with Ryan Holt, Tennessee Bar Association (February 5, 2015)
- "A Lawyer's Role in Crisis Communications: What Every Lawyer Needs to Know," Co-Presenter with Mark Ison, Nashville Bar Association (December 16, 2014)

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## Professional Activities

- Advisory Council Member, The Tennessee Innocence Project
- Associate Member, Harry Phillips American Inn of Court (2017 – 2019)
- Board Member and Former Executive Committee Member, Tennesseans for Alternatives Against the Death Penalty

- Executive Committee and Former Chair, Tennessee Bar Association's Communications Law Section
  - Fellow, American Bar Foundation
  - Fellow, Nashville Bar Foundation
  - Former Adjunct Professor, Belmont University
  - Member, Civil Rights & Social Justice and Litigation Sections, American Bar Association
  - Member, Communications Law and Litigation Sections, Tennessee Bar Association
  - Member, Communications Law Forum, American Bar Association
  - Member, Leadership Forum (Class of 2019), Nashville Bar Foundation
  - Member, Nashville Bar Association
  - Nashville Bar Association Representative, Davidson County Board of Ethical Conduct (2019 – 2022)
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#### Civic Activities

- Board of Directors (2015 – 2018) and Chair, Communications Committee (2016 – 2010), FiftyForward