## Cocke honored as Lawyer of the Year

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Merkel & Cocke, P.A. is pleased to announce that John Cocke has received Best Lawyers "Lawyer of the Year" award for 2013. Only a single lawyer in each practice area and designated metropolitan area is honored as the "Lawyer of the Year," making this accolade particularly significant.

Mr. Cocke was honored with the selection of Best Lawyers' 2013 Medical Malpractice Law - Plaintiffs "Lawyer of the Year"

Mr. Cocke moved to Clarksdale, MS to begin practicing in a general litigation firm, after graduating from the University of Virginia Law School in 1975. In 1982, Mr. Cocke and Mr. Merkel left that firm and established Merkel & Cocke, P.A., and since that time the emphasis of Mr. Cocke's practice has progressed more and more toward medical malpractice. At the present time his practice is exclusively devoted to handling medical negligence cases for the plaintiff, either as a result of direct contact by the client or as, more commonly occurs, on referral from other attorneys who are not familiar with the handling of medical negligence cases. Mr. Cocke handles all types of medical negligence cases, but a uniform requirement is that serious injury or death has occurred as a result of the medical mistake.

Lawyers being honored as "Lawyer of the Year" are selected based on particularly impressive voting averages received during the exhaustive peer-review assessments conducted by Best Lawyers with thousands of leading lawyers each year. Receiving this designation reflects the high level of respect a lawyer has earned among other leading lawyers in the same communities and the same practice areas for their abilities, their professionalism, and their integrity.