

Protecting Your Alabama Business from Identity Theft

By: Rutledge & Yaghamai

www.alabamabusinesslitigationattorney.com

While many might believe that identity theft is limited to individuals, the truth is that criminals are increasingly targeting [Alabama small businesses](#). Most often, business identity theft is used to illegally obtain cash, credit, and loans.

In order to steal the identity of your Alabama business, criminals often seek access to company information, such as the tax identification number (TIN) or the owners' personal information. Once they have this information, they are able to open up lines of credit or obtain business loans based on the business' identity and credit record.

Business identity theft poses serious risks because it often leaves behind a path of destruction in the form of unauthorized debts, damaged credit, and a destroyed reputation. That's why it's important to know how to protect your Alabama business.

Below are several tips to ensure that your business identity is not the victim of identity theft:

- Update your business filings as soon as any of your business contact information changes and check your business' filings with the Secretary of State's office at least once a year.
- Immediately notify your local law enforcement authorities of any unauthorized changes and update your Secretary of State business filings with the correct information.
- Regularly monitor your business' credit profile:
- Protect your sensitive company information as carefully as your sensitive personal information.
- Secure paper and electronic documents in locked cabinets and password-protected files.
- Establish company data security policies and limiting employee access to sensitive company and client information and assets.
- Don't transmit sensitive information, such as bank account information, via email or public websites.
- Shred business records before putting them in the recycling bin.
- Don't include sensitive personal or business information in public filings.
- Obtain business insurance coverage that covers any potential business identity theft losses.

Source: [California Secretary of State](#)

[Rutledge & Yaghamai](#) is a full service litigation firm that offers more than fifty-seven years of diverse legal experience. The attorneys of Rutledge & Yaghamai leverage that experience to assist large and small businesses throughout Alabama in achieving their business goals while minimizing their risks.

In addition to offering transactional business services such as Alabama business formation and planning, Rutledge & Yaghamai prides itself on the diversity of Alabama business litigation cases it has handled successfully.

To learn more about the wide range of transactional and business litigation services we offer Alabama businesses, please [contact](#) the attorneys of Rutledge & Yaghamai today.

William Eugene Rutledge graduated from the University of Alabama in 1960. He graduated from the University of Alabama Law School 1966. Mr. Rutledge served as a Captain in the Judge Advocate General's Corps, U.S. Army and as Chief of Military Justice at Fort Bliss, Texas. He was trial counsel for the United States where he prosecuted several nationally publicized court marshalls. He was the recipient of the Distinguished Service Medal for his trial work in the Army.

He began the practice of law in Birmingham, AL on August 1, 1966. His early trial practice was a mixture of business litigation and railroad related litigation. He has a strong appellate practice in which he has excelled since the early 1970s and continues that practice till the present time. He has handled over 100 cases in the state appellate system and 80 cases in the federal appellate system.

He specialized through the years of his practice in business formations. He has assisted new entrepreneurs in the formation and strategy of their businesses. Also, he represents companies in business litigation. Cases have ranged from business disputes among members to representing smaller companies against the "larger corporations." Practice memberships include the Bar of the Alabama Supreme Court, the United States District Court for the Northern, Middle and Southern Districts, the United States Court of Appeals for the Eleventh Circuit, and the Supreme Court of the United States. He is married to Sherry Crittenden Rutledge and has four children and six grandchildren.

Greg Yaghamai

Greg graduated with honors from The Citadel where he received his bachelor's degree in Business Administration. In 1997, he received his law degree from Cumberland School of Law.

For the first four and half of years of his legal career, Greg served as a Deputy District Attorney for the Jefferson County, Alabama District Attorney's Office. By age 26 he tried his first death penalty case. He went on to try either solo or as lead counsel seven capital murder and six murder cases. He also had the benefit of being the first lawyer in Alabama to be certified by the Alabama State Troopers as a Traffic Homicide investigator. He obtained this after attending a two-week seminar, which required him to live in a closed military base with forty other police officers. He also had the unique experience of being provided alcohol in a controlled setting so he could be utilized by the Jefferson County Sheriff's training academy in officers learning how to administer field sobriety tests. He is a member of the National College for DUI Defense (NCDD) which is a prestigious organization defending those charged with DUI.

He subsequently left the DA's office to become a partner in a forty lawyer civil litigation firm. This firm concentrated mostly on civil defense work, but Greg continued to expand his plaintiff and criminal defense practice.

In 2006, he co-founded Rutledge & Yaghmai. One of Greg's goals was to reduce the number of cases handled to allow for more individual attention to each case. Rutledge & Yaghmai maintains a general litigation practice. Greg focuses on personal injury, business litigation, and criminal defense cases.

Greg has truly handled cases from all sides: criminal prosecution/defense and civil plaintiff/defense. Overall, Greg has tried more than seventy-five jury trials to conclusion. He has significant experience in using visual presentations and present day media applications in presenting cases to jury. His ultimate jury consultant is his wife, Brandi, who he met when she served on the jury of a rape/kidnapping case he tried.

He has recently been asked to teach Trial Techniques for the International Web based site Solo Practice University. There he will share his expertise in trying jury cases.

Greg is licensed in all state and federal courts in Alabama and the 11th Circuit