

2019 UP & COMING

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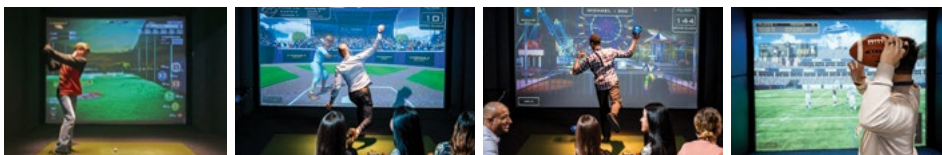


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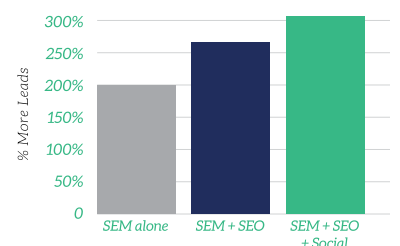
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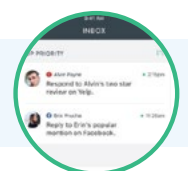


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LETTER FROM PUBLISHER



Google the phrase “Up and Coming,” and you’ll find lots of examples of up-and-comers as well as definitions. They explain that the adjective describes someone who is likely to achieve success in the future based on current progress.

You knew that already. Me, too. So it’s obvious why Missouri Lawyers Media chose it as the title of this annual event that recognizes remarkable attorneys early in their careers.

But I’m starting to believe we got the title all wrong. After all, the folks highlighted on these pages are succeeding now.

Not later. Now.

Read the current career stats of these honorees, and you will see each has ticked off accomplishments most of us either find elusive or decades in the making. And yet each honoree has achieved at these high levels before reaching age 40, or while practicing for less than 10 years.

My career began when these rock stars were just greeting life. Their careers are decades away from completion with accolades we can only imagine today.

We also celebrate six mentors who personify the trajectory for the Up & Coming honorees. Not only are the honored mentors exceptional in their own careers, they pay it forward by reaching back and offering a hand up. They recognize that true success often relies on a listening ear or a word of warning about challenges they’ve faced on their own similar paths.

Each year, Missouri Lawyers Media receives scores of nominations for these honors. Poring through the achievements of so many worthy candidates is a daunting task accomplished through thoughtful, deliberate discussion.

The honorees you will read about in this section define what this award is really all about — early-career attorneys achieving at the highest levels.

It doesn’t matter what moniker we place on the award. No one will remember that.

What will be remembered is the accomplishment.

Sincerely,

Liz Irwin



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Circulation: (877) 615-9536

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Leaders & Difference Makers



Sarah E. Lintecum



Lauren M. Wacker



Kate Nolen

Congratulations to Lathrop Gage’s 2019 Up & Coming Honorees!

Sarah Lintecum and Lauren Wacker are recognized for their extraordinary pro bono efforts, and Kate Nolen is recognized for her important work as a mentor in the development of young attorneys. Well-deserved honors!

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MENTOR HONOREES



Athena Dickson
PARTNER, SIRO SMITH DICKSON



Aubrey Gann-Redmon
FOUNDING ATTORNEY, AGR LEGAL SERVICES



Kelly McCambridge
OWNER, MCCAMBRIDGE LAW



Kate Nolen
OF-COUNSEL, LATHROP GAGE



Beth Phillips
CHIEF JUDGE, U.S. DISTRICT COURT FOR THE WESTERN DISTRICT OF MISSOURI

By Scott Lauck
slauck@molawyersmedia.com

In 2009, Kansas City attorney Denise Henning, through sheer force of will, began pairing young female lawyers with mentors within the legal community. Ten years later, and three years after the untimely death of its creator, the program remains a labor of love.

Athena Dickson, Aubrey Gann-Redmon, Kelly McCambridge, Kate Nolen and Beth Phillips are just five of the 115 women who have taken part in what is now known as the Denise Henning Connections Program. Yet their experiences encapsulate the passion and commitment that have kept it going strong.

Connections, run in connection with the Association for Women Lawyers Foundation, features classes of five mentors and five mentees, who rotate among each other during a five-year period. Gann-Redmon, Nolen and McCambridge were mentees in the Connections program's inaugural class. Starting in 2014, the three women, joined by Dickson and Phillips, began serving as mentors to a new five-year class of young women hungry for advice and camaraderie.

"Ending the program after 10 years almost felt like being orphaned," Gann-Redmon said. "I had never really practiced law in my career without the Connections program."

Despite the time commitment involved, the

program has expanded through the years. The first year, there was just one class of 10; as of the program's 10th anniversary in March 2019, there were five simultaneous classes, representing 50 women in all. And while Henning personally recruited participants in the early years, potential mentees these days go through an application process to be admitted.

Dickson, who also serves as the program's coordinator, said Connections now is shifting to a three-year program, with two groups of three mentor-mentee pairs at a time. Dickson said she hopes that expanding the number of available slots while reducing the time commitment by two years will make the program more sustainable — especially after the loss of its founder. Henning died from cancer in 2016 at age 50.

"Denise was the driving force that kept the program going," Dickson said. "I try to be as persuasive as possible, but it's harder to get people signed on for such a long commitment."

Dickson, of Siro Smith Dickson, and McCambridge, of McCambridge Law, both have personal injury and employment practices; Gann-Redmon's AGR Legal Services concentrates on probate and estate work; Kate Nolen is of-counsel at Lathrop Gage, and Phillips is a federal judge in Kansas City. That diversity of experiences among the mentors is typical, as the program's organizers want to give mentees a broad view of women's careers in the legal

field.

"The struggles that younger attorneys potentially face early in their careers have similarities, regardless of whether you're in a big firm, small firm, public-sector practice or private practice," Phillips said.

But the program doesn't just offer professional advice for its participants.

"We have done weddings, births, deaths, divorces. We've been through all of that," McCambridge said. "I thought it would be more of a just professional mentoring program, and I've been so pleased at how much is concentrated on work-life balance or whatever it is the mentee needs that year."

Participants meet monthly, sometimes as a group, sometimes individually. Nolen said the structure of the program helps mentees to overcome the natural reluctance to seek advice.

"Sometimes those mentor relationships happen naturally, especially if an attorney is just outgoing and finds it very easy to ask for help and go to events. But sometimes they don't," she said.

Nolen added that, even as her formal participation in Connections has ended, she still feels like a part of it.

"As the group continued to meet, these relationships grew, and these lifelong friendships started to form," she said. "I think that was Denise's vision all along."

MENTOR HONOREE

Phyllis Norman-Komoroski



PARTNER, NORMAN & GRAVES

Location: Kansas City

Practice Areas: Personal injury, product liability, class actions

Law School: University of Missouri-Kansas City

To have a diverse legal community in the future, one has to get a diverse group of young people interested in the law now. Phyllis Norman-Komoroski served as a chairperson of a promising effort during its inaugural year.

The Kansas City Metropolitan Bar Foundation's Student Law Academy provides underprivileged high school students with meaningful exposure

to careers in the legal profession. Each week, students interned at a different law firm and met with an assigned mentor to discuss their experiences. Norman served as a mentor and helped to get the program off of the ground.

Norman serves in numerous capacities in the Kansas City legal community. She serves as secretary for the Kansas City Metropolitan Bar Association, is a past president of the Association for Women Lawyers of Greater Kansas City and also serves as treasurer of the AWL Foundation.

Norman was elected by local lawyers to the 16th Circuit Judicial Commission. She also served as a mentor in what is now known as the Denise Henning Connections Program through AWLF from 2010 to 2014.

What advice do you have for young lawyers?

My advice for young lawyers is of course learn your craft well but also to follow your gut and be true to yourself. Build relationships and find a good mentor and champion. Last, take care of yourself, your clients and the community through helping with charities. It will make you feel good about yourself, which is necessary in life to be happy.

What inspired you to get involved in the legal profession?

My reason to go to law school was the opportunity to help others, and luckily being in the plaintiff's area of practice has fully fulfilled that desire.

What is the best career advice you have received?

Two things. 1) Be in the moment in career and personal life and 2) Quality of work is absolutely important, but your attitude in a case is just as important.

If you hadn't become a lawyer, what profession would you have chosen?

That depends on if you asked me in my 20s or now. In my 20s, probably a doctor. Now, a professional vacationer.

What is your favorite thing to do away from work?

TENNIS — Love it.

— Scott Lauck



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on being named a
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Keith Bae

for being honored with the
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PRO BONO HONOREE

Sarah E. Lintecum, 37



ASSOCIATE, LATHROP GAGE
Location: Kansas City
Practice Areas: Insurance recovery and counseling, environmental law
Law School: University of Missouri-Kansas City

Sarah Lintecum and Lauren Wacker were part of a team of Lathrop Gage attorneys who helped to free a Little Rock, Arkansas, woman who spent 26 years in prison for a murder her attorneys say she did not commit.

Laquanda “Faye” Jacobs was 16 in February 1992 when police arrested her in connection with the shooting death of another teenager. Although Jacobs did not match the description of the shooter and had an alibi, a teenager who witnessed the shooting picked her from a photo lineup, though he’d failed to identify her from the photo on two other occasions. Another witness who faced charges of his own also identified Jacobs but since has recanted his testimony.

The Lathrop Gage attorneys worked with the Midwest Innocence Project to overturn Jacobs’ conviction, arguing that her original lawyers had failed to talk to multiple witnesses who would have told the jury that she hadn’t committed the crime. But before the federal courts could rule on the matter, Jacobs was resentenced under a U.S. Supreme Court ruling that bars automatic sentences of life without parole for defendants who were under 18 at the time of the crime.

In 2018, her sentence was reduced to 40 years, and she was released due to her exemplary con-

duct in prison. Although she is free, Jacobs has not been exonerated. Her advocates are petitioning Arkansas’s governor for clemency.

“When I heard Faye’s story, I could not fathom the injustice done to a young girl forced to spend her life in prison simply because she had limited family resources to provide a competent legal defense,” Wacker said.

Lintecum, who drove to Little Rock to watch Jacobs walk out of prison, said she was astonished by her client’s resiliency and strength of character.

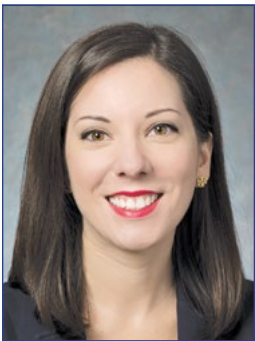
“Despite what she has been through, Faye is upbeat, positive and happy,” she said.

What advice do you have for young lawyers?

Lintecum: First of all, I would encourage young lawyers to work on a pro bono matter because it is truly rewarding and reminds you of why you went to law school in the first place — to help those who don’t have a voice. Second, I would encourage all young lawyers to learn from their mistakes and become a leader by learning from a mentor who is willing to advocate for your success and give you opportunities to become a better lawyer.

Wacker: Do not confuse being a zealous advocate with being a jerk to opposing counsel. Just because we work within an adversary system does not mean we have to be difficult or abusive. If you are fair and

Lauren M. Wacker, 35



OF-COUNSEL, LATHROP GAGE
Location: Clayton
Practice Area: Business litigation
Law School: Saint Louis University

reasonable in dealing with opposing counsel, you will develop a reputation as a problem-solver and not a troublemaker.

What is the best career advice you have received?

Lintecum: No one is going to manage your career for you. After receiving that advice, I’ve always had a general career path in mind and then sought out opportunities that help me get the skills that I need to take the next step on the path. I’ve been lucky to have great mentors along the way that have helped me find those opportunities and then succeed at them.

Wacker: My father taught me to be nice to everyone — obviously in life, but also in the legal world. I have been saved countless times by courtroom clerks and firm legal assistants who were happy to return a favor I had extended to them. Law firms and courts are inherently hierarchical, but when it comes to how you treat other human beings, there is no place for hierarchy.

What is your favorite thing to do away from work?

Lintecum: Attend sporting events or watch them on TV, particularly the Jayhawks, Chiefs and Royals. I also really enjoy spinning for exercise.

Wacker: Playing with my 2-year-old twins, Eddie and Jeannie, and planning my next vacation with my husband, Brian.

— Scott Lauck

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UP & COMING HONOREE

Alex P. Aguilera, 32



ASSISTANT GENERAL COUNSEL – LITIGATION AND COMPLIANCE, LEGGETT & PLATT INC.

Location: Carthage

Practice Area(s): Legal compliance, employment law

Law School: The University of Kansas

Very recently, Alex Aguilera accepted an in-house position at Leggett & Platt, but before he left, his former colleagues at Seyferth Blumenthal & Harris nominated him for this award — and they stand by their nomination today.

At that firm, he represented companies across the country in all stages of litigation. He worked on cases involving everything from workplace discrimination and harassment matters to non-compete agreements and trade-secret issues.

He counseled clients on best practices for contracts and workplace guidelines, while also providing supervisor and manager training on legal compliance issues.

Before leaving, he even made partner at a relatively young age. Said Aguilera: “I have immense respect for the firm, and I consider the attorneys there giants in the profession. I was honored that they called me their partner.”

What advice do you have for young lawyers?

Young lawyers should seek out great mentors and take time out of their day to watch how successful lawyers do things, whether it’s advising clients, witness-interviewing, depositions, courtroom practice or thinking about cases. The practice of law cannot be learned solely through statutes and case law, so take advantage of all the great lawyers out there to get better.

What is something that would surprise people about you?

I meditate every morning. It keeps me grounded, focused and calm. I still feel a little embarrassed telling people that, but it’s become a part of my daily life.

If you hadn’t become a lawyer, what profession would you have chosen?

I probably would have been a psychologist. I’ve always loved learning about the human mind and why people act the way they do.

— Nicholas Phillips

UP & COMING HONOREE

Joshua Bade, 33



ADMINISTRATIVE DIRECTOR AND ASSISTANT GENERAL COUNSEL, COXHEALTH

Location: Springfield

Practice Area(s): Physician compensation and contracting, Stark and anti-kickback investigations/compliance, general contracting, corporate transactions, leases, board and governance, litigation management, regulatory compliance

Law School: University of Arkansas

A pet-food scare propelled Josh Bade to law school. He was a writer and graphic designer at Nestle when customers became concerned about a possible large-scale contamination. Bade helped to come up with messaging to allay their fears, and in doing so, worked with the company’s legal department. He decided a lawyer is what he would rather be.

Today, at CoxHealth, he manages a wide range of matters and duties. For example, this year, he helped with the launch of docXchange, a physician practice-management app.

He also developed a multimillion-dollar facilities plan for ambulatory expansion. It was approved by the Board of Directors, and crews already have broken ground on three new facilities that will each be around 30,000 square feet.

Said Bade: “I enjoy strategizing and building things.

What advice do you have for young lawyers?

You can’t steal second base with your foot still on first. Calculated risks are necessary to drive improvement and create change.

What is something that would surprise people about you?

I once shot free throws with Michael Jordan.

What has been your favorite moment as an attorney?

I’ve been fortunate enough to work on multiple mergers since I joined CoxHealth. It takes the coordinated effort of multiple attorneys and departments to get these completed. That team effort leads to good memories and a joint sigh of relief when the deal goes through. Watching our team work together and succeed during hard times has created many great memories.

— Nicholas Phillips

UP & COMING HONOREE

Keith J. Bae, 39



PARTNER, SHOOK, HARDY & BACON

Location: Kansas City

Practice Area(s): Intellectual property

Law School: New England School of Law

There aren’t many attorneys in Missouri who can advise clients on patent issues related to artificial intelligence, virtual and augmented reality, natural language processing and blockchain technologies.

Keith Bae can.

A former software engineer with a degree in computer science, Bae earned his law degree in 2009, then served as a patent attorney for the Office

of Naval Research in the U.S. Department of the Navy Office of the General Counsel in Arlington, Virginia. Now he’s at Shook, from which he advises some of the best-known tech brands in the country.

Yet his favorite moment as an attorney had nothing to do with the digital or IP world; it came in a pro-bono case in which he assisted now-retired Shook partner Gene Balloun with a foster-child adoption.

“I’ve had a few emotional moments in my life,” recounted Bae, “but that experience hit me right in the feels.”

What is something that would surprise people about you?

Once upon a time, I had quarter-inch long, beach-blond hair (and a fuller head of hair, but that’s not as surprising).

What inspired you to get involved in the legal profession?

I love my Dad and respect him so much, but I would attribute most of my inspiration to hearing him say that I shouldn’t go to law school. There was a period in my life when I, as a rebellious son, would do the exact opposite of what he suggested. Most of my decisions during this timeframe didn’t turn out so great, but clearly some did. Thanks, Dad!

Anything else you want people to know about you?

I built and now manage, as somewhat of a hobby, a relatively large-scale cryptocurrency mining operation.

— Nicholas Phillips

UP & COMING HONOREE

Kathryn C. Bascom, 32



ASSOCIATE, ARMSTRONG TEASDALE

Location: St. Louis

Practice Area(s): Litigation — fire, explosion and electrical liability, insurance coverage and defense, business litigation, product liability

Law School: University of Missouri-Kansas City

Kathryn Bascom, a litigator at Armstrong Teasdale, has impressed her colleagues with several of her attributes and skills.

She has a calm demeanor in the courtroom. Her writing is strong. She hits deadlines. She’s also easy to communicate with. Perhaps most importantly,

she’s getting results: Just this year, she has won a number of summary judgments for clients in both state and federal court.

When not at the firm, she’s volunteering, playing with her rescue dogs or with her husband caring for their infant son.

“I had a two-week-long jury trial almost immediately upon returning to work,” recalled Bascom. “Having a very small baby at home while second-chairing a trial was a unique challenge that taught me I am tougher than I thought — and that I can get by on very little sleep.”

What advice do you have for young lawyers?

The best way to learn is by doing. I have spent a lot of time in my career worrying that I wouldn’t be able to do things I’d never done before, like arguing a big motion or learning a new area of the law, before even trying. I wish I had been a little gentler on myself and just jumped right in.

What is something that would surprise people about you?

I am a certified yoga teacher. I have been practicing yoga since high school and completed teacher training in 2017. Yoga has been an integral part of my legal practice because it helps me keep a level head and declutters my mind.

What is the best career advice you have received?

You have to take responsibility for your career path. You can’t sit and wait for opportunities to fall into your lap. It’s up to you to take initiative to find what interests you and to seek out good mentors and teachers.

— Nicholas Phillips

UP & COMING HONOREE

Kelle C. Burmeister Gilmore, 40



PARTNER, BURMEISTER GILMORE

Location: Independence

Practice area(s): Family law, juvenile law, probate

Law school: University of Missouri-Kansas City

From the time she decided to follow her father into the legal profession, Kelle C. Burmeister Gilmore has been going the extra step to help people, and her dedication has led to her opening her own practice.

Burmeister Gilmore’s nominators sing her praises for her passionate commitment to children who wind up in the court system. One of her nominators said she often can be found meeting with her young clients in her office on the weekends. Another points to the way she navigates effectively through difficult cases involving guardianship, third-party custody and children in need of care.

Burmeister Gilmore also is a member of several professional boards and bar organizations, volunteers time for CLE sessions and devotes many hours of pro bono work to help families and children. One of her nominators mentioned that she models board engagement in a way you read about in articles and books.

As another nominator put it, “Kelle represents the very best of the legal profession, using her experience, knowledge, passion and commitment to help children and families every single day.”

What is your biggest accomplishment this year?

Not giving up on this job. That sounds ridiculous, but the burnout is real. I love what I do, but the demands are difficult, so figuring out a work-life balance is challenging. I am proud of myself for not giving up.

What is something that would surprise people about you?

I danced for the Arizona State University dance team in college. Go Sun Devils!

What is the best career advice you have received?

Pick your battles and know when enough is enough. There is no need to continue with a witness when the point has been achieved.

— Scott Andera

UP & COMING HONOREE

Tricia Campbell, 37



ATTORNEY, LANGDON & EMISON

Location: Kansas City

Practice Area(s): Mass torts, products liability, catastrophic personal injury

Law School: University of Missouri-Kansas City

Tricia Campbell has been at Langdon & Emison for only two years, but she is already a powerhouse.

Formerly a partner at The Potts Law Firm in Westwood, Kansas, Campbell now manages the mass-tort dockets for her firm. She does it all: takes depositions in complex medical-device cases, participates on trial teams and handles litigation workup in bellwether trials.

In March, she helped to organize an all-day CLE by the Western District of Missouri on current issues in MDLs and class actions, coordinating with judges from across the country and moderating a panel presentation. On top of all of this, she finds time to participate and volunteer with various organizations, such as Women En Mass and the Association for Women Lawyers.

What is something that would surprise people about you?

I am an avid poker player. Apparently it’s unexpected because people typically underestimate me.

What is your favorite thing to do away from work?

Travel. So far my favorite trip has been to Italy in 2017 with my husband and friends. The cities were picturesque, and every place we visited had amazing food and wine. Who wouldn’t want pasta for every meal?

Anything else you want people to know about you?

I am a first-generation college graduate. Both of my parents grew up very poor, and instead of getting a college degree, they each joined the Army, which is where they met. After the Army, they found successful careers with the government, creating a better life for my sister and me than what they had. Knowing how they overcame their circumstances to provide such opportunity for me is humbling. Everything I am and have is because of their selflessness, resourcefulness and plain hard work.

— Nicholas Phillips

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UP & COMING HONOREE

Corey M. Casey, 39



SHAREHOLDER, POLSINELLI
Location: Kansas City
Practice Area(s): Intellectual property, Hatch-Waxman litigation
Law School: University of Missouri-Kansas City

One of the things that makes Corey Casey a superb litigation strategist and planner for drug manufacturers is that he’s a registered pharmacist. While earning his Doctor of Pharmacy degree at the University of Missouri-Kansas City, he completed an externship at Eli Lilly and Company. One of his mentors there had a background in both pharmaceuticals and the law — a path Casey found to be so interesting that he emulated it. At Polsinelli, he has served as counsel in cases involving a variety of drugs, including topical solutions and transdermal patches. Within the past year, for example, he was part of a team that negotiated a favorable settlement for a client in a generic pharmaceutical patent-infringement case. Outside of the firm, he volunteers at Our Lady of the Presentation parish in Lee’s Summit and with the Special Olympics Missouri.

What has been your favorite moment as an attorney?
A little over a year and a half ago, I got to spend approximately two weeks in Texarkana, Texas for a trial in the Eastern District of Texas. It is relatively rare for pharmaceutical patent-infringement cases to go to trial, so to have that experience was invaluable.
What advice do you have for young lawyers?
Be adaptable and willing to embrace change in your career . . . In law school, and even for my first year or two in practice, I never envisioned myself involved with litigation, but the opportunity arose, and now I am thankful I made that decision.

— Nicholas Phillips

UP & COMING HONOREE

Sara Hofeditz Christensen, 35



ASSOCIATE, THE HASTINGS LAW FIRM
Location: Kansas City
Practice Area(s): Criminal defense
Law School: University of Missouri-Kansas City

A lawyer who knows Sara Hofeditz Christensen said “she might be the busiest person on Earth.” Christensen, a former assistant public defender, is now in private practice at The Hastings Law Firm, where she manages a full caseload of serious felony offenses, including homicides and sex crimes. One of her most memorable cases, though, unfolded in municipal court in Kansas City, where she defended a couple who owned a shower house that provides meals, toiletries, clean clothes and a place to take a shower to Kansas City’s most needy. They were charged with some municipal infractions, but more than 100 people showed up to support the defendants, and Christensen won an acquittal for them. Outside of her legal practice, Christensen volunteers in both the community and in legal associations. In October 2018, she and her husband had a son named Stanley, with whom she loves spending time.

What is something that would surprise people about you?
Growing up, I performed in plays [and] was a ballet dancer, baton twirler and singer.
What is the best career advice you have received?
Be true to yourself — especially in the courtroom. Juries can tell when you are being disingenuous. Go for it, whatever it is, and believe in it 100 percent, or don’t do it at all. Don’t try and mimic another attorney’s style or performance. Your voice and your story are the most powerful tools you have.
Anything else you want people to know about you?
I taught my dog how to high-five while studying for the bar exam.

— Nicholas Phillips

UP & COMING HONOREE

John D. Cooney, 36



PRINCIPAL, BROWN & JAMES
Location: St. Louis
Practice Area(s): Civil defense, insurance law, premises liability, products liability
Law School: University of Missouri

Some of John D. Cooney’s earliest memories involve visiting the downtown St. Louis law office of his father, John F. Cooney, and then accompanying him to a Cardinals baseball game. Fast-forward several decades: The younger John is himself a lawyer, and he works at the downtown firm Brown & James. While there, he has served as co-chair of the firm’s annual client seminar, spending months every year planning and coordinating presentations and logistics for the event. In his practice, he focuses on civil defense. In one case, he encountered a familiar face: Cooney was retained by a defendant in a property-damage case in Madison County, Missouri, and by sheer coincidence, his father was retained by the co-defendant. Together, they won a defense verdict, and after the jury left, snapped a photo of themselves in the courtroom — for posterity.

What advice do you have for young lawyers?
Be willing to put in the time and immerse yourself in your cases so that you know them inside and out. I find that it is often the smallest details that are the difference between a favorable and unfavorable result in a case, whether it be finding a key notation in a medical record or tracking down a witness that is difficult to find.
If you hadn’t become a lawyer, what profession would you have chosen?
Due to my natural athleticism and raw strength, it’s hard to imagine that I would not have been a professional athlete of some sort, or more likely, a U.S. Olympian. I decided to go to law school instead.

— Nicholas Phillips

UP & COMING HONOREE

Rebecca R. Corson, 29



ASSOCIATE, STANTON | BARTON
Location: Clayton
Practice Area: Product liability
Law School: Washington University School of Law

Rebecca Corson’s commitments to both her profession and civic engagement are reflected in her accomplishments during the three years since she graduated from law school. She drafted the first drone legislation enacted in Missouri. She volunteers to help transgender persons with the necessary legal work to change their names and genetic markers because she’s learned how expensive those processes can be. She walked the runway during the VintageNow fashion show, a benefit for the Safe House for Women shelter in Cape Girardeau — her ninth consecutive year with the event. Corson said it is particularly important for attorneys to remember that being a lawyer is a privilege, and that privilege should be leveraged “humbly and with joy” to help people and improve communities. Her nominator notes her adherence to that belief, saying Corson “regards uplifting her community as both a duty and a hobby.” Added her nominator: “With her clear passion and drive for both the law and her community, Ms. Corson has certainly marked herself as someone who is up and coming in the St. Louis legal community.”

What is something that would surprise people about you?
I enjoy a wide variety of music, but my love of punk music seems to be a source of surprise and amusement for even close friends and family members.
If you hadn’t become a lawyer, what profession would you have chosen?
It is difficult to imagine myself choosing a career outside of law. An academic career or a position as a whiskey brand ambassador would probably have been suitable alternative choices.
What is the best career advice you’ve received?
A former employer used to remind me frequently of advice given to him by his grandmother: “Don’t ever get so big for your britches that you think you don’t have time to help someone out.”

— Dana Rieck

UP & COMING HONOREE

Jessica E. Courtway, 30



ASSOCIATE, GREENSFELDER, HEMKER & GALE

Locations: St. Louis

Practice Area: Construction

Law School: Washington University in St. Louis

Jessica Courtway advises young lawyers to keep in mind that failure often teaches you more than success and to remember it's OK to make mistakes as long you learn from them. Courtway's first five years as a lawyer, however, are far more notable for her achievements.

At Greensfelder, she serves on the firm's recruiting and associates committees. A construction attorney, she also founded the firm's construction blog, Nuts & Bolts.

She leads outside the firm as well: She has served as the president of the Missouri Asian American Bar Association from 2017-2018 and as vice president of the Young Lawyers Division of The Bar Association of Metropolitan St. Louis.

In her free time, you can find her traveling or hanging out on the patio with her husband, her two dogs and a glass of wine (or two, she admits).

If you hadn't become a lawyer, what profession would you have chosen?

My father is a retired meteorologist, which I think is such a fascinating field, so either that or something in academia.

What is the best career advice you have received?

Never get too high or too low on yourself. There will be good days and bad days (and, at times, stretches of each), so try to stay even-keeled.

What has been your favorite moment as an attorney?

Arguing in front of the Missouri Court of Appeals Western District.

— Dana Rieck

UP & COMING HONOREE

Jack A. Downing, 27



ASSOCIATE, GRAY, RITTER & GRAHAM

Locations: St. Louis

Practice Areas: Commercial litigation, class actions, mass torts, medical malpractice, catastrophic injury, wrongful death

Law School: University of Missouri

"Jack, you're destined to be an attorney, with as much as you like to argue."

That's how Jack Downing's mother would respond after he launched into heated debates with his siblings as a child.

Growing up, Downing said, he was inspired to become a lawyer by the example set by his father, attorney Don M. Downing, who exhibited an aura of purpose and fulfillment every day.

Now he works for the same firm as his father. As an associate at Gray, Ritter & Graham, he represents farmers and consumers in high-stakes litigation. His nominator said he's quickly found his footing as a litigator, and his experience already rivals that of attorneys many years his senior.

In his spare time, he volunteers with Room at the Inn, an emergency shelter for homeless women and families.

Downing's advice to other young lawyers: It's important to work hard, but it's just as important to take care of yourself to optimize the services you provide for your family, your firm and your clients.

If you hadn't become a lawyer, what profession would you have chosen?

My purely aspirational one would be to be a PGA Tour golfer. I competed in junior tournaments when I was a kid and have always loved the sport. Unfortunately, I could never get my game to match my level of enthusiasm.

What is your biggest accomplishment this year?

Helping to secure a settlement for one of our clients for the wrongful death of her husband involving a tank explosion in Soulard.

What is your favorite thing to do away from work?

My two favorites probably happen to be the two most cliché: getting exercise and being outdoors.

— Dana Rieck

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UP & COMING HONOREE

C. Nathan “Nate” Dunville, 35



ATTORNEY, NEALE & NEWMAN
Location: Springfield
Practice Areas: Commercial litigation, business, real estate, finance and banking, construction, employment
Law School: University of Missouri

Nate Dunville says the keys to a successful legal career are hard work and taking every opportunity to get involved with local and statewide bar associations.

“No matter how smart, articulate or experienced you think you are, your work ethic and ability to get the job done is what will define you,” Dunville said.

It’s evident he’s taken his own advice. Dunville is heavily involved with the Springfield Metropolitan Bar Association, including developing and launching “Bar Brews,” a monthly series that provides an informal way for lawyers to share drinks together while earning CLE credits. Outside of the profession, Dunville volunteers with Big Brothers Big Sisters of the Ozarks, the Drew Lewis Foundation and the Lost and Found Grief Center in Springfield.

“His level of professionalism, as well as his dedication to public service, is far beyond that of other attorneys who have had much longer careers,” his nominator wrote.

What is your favorite thing to do away from work?
I grew up in the back of my mother’s restaurant and worked [at] restaurant jobs for most of the early years of my life. Now, in my free time, I still love to cook and feed people I care about. It’s both a stress reliever and a creative outlet.


What is your biggest accomplishment this year?
My wonderful wife Hannah and I are having our first child this year, so becoming a father is the thing I am most excited about.

What has been your favorite moment as an attorney?
Winning my first solo jury trial. Delivering my client the result they deserved and seeing how all of the hard work and preparation translated into success was extremely gratifying.

— Dana Rieck

UP & COMING HONOREE

Carly Duvall, 35



OF-COUNSEL, SPENCER FANE
Location: Kansas City
Practice Area: Litigation, including white-collar criminal defense
Law School: University of Missouri

Carly Duvall said she has come to learn that the practice of law is fostered on relationships. She follows the advice a friend once gave her by always sharing the most authentic version of herself with people.

“I bring the same personality to a client meeting as I do to a cup of coffee with my friends,” she said.

“I believe it produces more connections, better relationships and ultimately a better work product.”

Duvall’s leadership is illustrated in a number of ways, such as developing and co-chairing the Spencer Fane STARTUP Lab, which offers three months of free legal consultation to qualifying companies in the Kansas City region. In addition, she is launching a Missouri chapter of the Women’s White Collar Defense Association, and she works every day to defend large corporate businesses in high-stakes disputes.

“I have worked with literally hundreds of young lawyers, and none have impressed me as a professional, a leader and a friend like Carly [has],” her nominator wrote.

What advice do you have for young lawyers?
My professional motto is to work hard and be nice to people. Those two things will carry you farther in this profession than any other skill or trait.

What has been your favorite moment as an attorney?
Very early in my career, I represented a same-sex couple in one of the first same-sex parental adoptions in Jackson County.

What is your favorite thing to do away from work?
Spend time with my 4-year-old. She is an amazingly creative, funny and smart tiny human. Being a mom isn’t my sole purpose, but it is absolutely the best thing I have done in my life.

— Dana Rieck



Sandberg Phoenix congratulates Shareholder and Health Law Practice Group Leader Dennis Harms, along with the other 2019 honorees, on being named an Up & Coming Lawyer.

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UP & COMING HONOREE

Patrick J. Eckelkamp, 31



ASSOCIATE, HUSCH BLACKWELL

Locations: St. Louis

Practice Areas: Real estate, development, construction

Law School: Saint Louis University

The best career advice Patrick Eckelkamp says he ever received was to take ownership of projects. He appears to be following it in his practice at Husch Blackwell.

From working on the WildHorse mixed-use development project in Chesterfield to the development of the new \$78 million Maryland Heights ice sports complex and the Enterprise Center's \$150 million

renovation, Eckelkamp has handled real estate projects surpassing a half-billion dollars in value.

Eckelkamp is a member of the board of directors of the St. Louis Public Library Foundation. He also is active with RISE Community Development St. Louis, a nonprofit home builder and community developer, and Friends of Tower Grove Park.

"As an up-and-coming real estate lawyer at Husch Blackwell, Patrick has played a prominent role in several key developments that impact the lives of a great many St. Louisans on a daily basis and are frequently covered by the local business press," his nominator wrote.

What is something that would surprise people about you?

I once fell from the second floor of a building into a refrigerator box and didn't break any bones.

What inspired you to get involved in the legal profession?

My family has been involved in real estate my entire life, and I was always interested in the legal aspects of real estate.

What has been your favorite moment as an attorney?

Returning to SLU Law for On Campus Interviews and sharing my experience as an attorney at Husch Blackwell.

Anything else you want people to know about you?

Go Billikens.

— Dana Rieck

UP & COMING HONOREE

Joseph Esry, 29



MANAGING ATTORNEY, PARMAN & EASTERDAY

Location: Kansas City

Practice Areas: Estate planning, business

Law School: University of Missouri-Kansas City

Within his first year at Parman & Easterday, Joseph Esry's business development efforts led to noticeable growth at the firm.

Promoted to managing attorney in 2018, he made his dedication to his practice and firm so well-known that he now oversees employee hiring and

retention at the firm's Overland Park office as well as his own full caseload, according to one of his nominators.

"Joseph Esry is the definition of a leader," another nominator writes. He also regularly presents on estate-planning matters and serves two nonprofit organizations as pro bono general counsel while providing pro bono services to others. He volunteers with multiple organizations, and he's been a Boy Scout leader for years.

Esry said he was inspired as a child to become a lawyer after witnessing an attorney help his mother to obtain child support from his father. While he didn't know exactly what was going on at that time, he said, he saw how happy the lawyer made his mother.

What advice do you have for young lawyers?

There are lots of different areas of the law. Do not just pick one and resign yourself to doing something that you can survive. Look around and work hard until you find what makes you love what you do.

What is your biggest accomplishment this year?

Restarting the habit of reading for pleasure.

What is the best career advice you have received?

Do not network to get clients. Get involved with organizations and communities you love. Be passionate, genuine and helpful in those groups, and it will pay off professionally.

— Dana Rieck

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UP & COMING HONOREE

Rebecca Frigy Romine, 37



SHAREHOLDER AND PRIVACY OFFICER,
POLSINELLI

Location: St. Louis

Practice Areas: Health care, data privacy and security

Law School: Saint Louis University

Rebecca Frigy Romine’s health care-focused efforts can be seen in her legal practice and throughout the St. Louis community as well.

Frigy Romine primarily focuses on the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act in her practice. Her nominator points to her “established

track record as a national thought leader within the field of the privacy and security of health information.”

Besides serving numerous clients, she advises the Missouri Health Connection, which runs and operates a statewide health information network. She serves with multiple bar associations, and she also is a member of the Young Professionals Board of the Saint Louis Crisis Nursery.

“Rebecca has distinguished herself as a rising star in the legal profession by demonstrating a tremendous enthusiasm and acumen for the field of law, establishing an unwavering commitment to her clients and dedicating herself to making the St. Louis region a better place for the citizens of our community,” wrote her nominator.

What advice do you have for young lawyers?

Don’t get caught up in the pressure of trying to generate clients; rather, focus on learning to be a skilled lawyer because, at the end of the day, your work product and making clients happy is your best marketing tool.

What is something that would surprise people about you?

I grew up figure skating and playing ice hockey, and [I] probably spent more time in ice rinks than anywhere else.

If you hadn’t become a lawyer, what profession would you have chosen?

This is a toss-up between a travel writer and a bookstore owner.

— Dana Rieck

UP & COMING HONOREE

Gerald Gray II, 38



MANAGING MEMBER, G. GRAY LAW

Location: Kansas City

Practice area(s): Personal injury, employment, probate

Law school: University of Missouri-Kansas City

Though his mother often talked about him becoming an attorney, Gerald Gray II said he didn’t become serious about his law career until his wife became pregnant with the couple’s first child. Since then, his decision to dedicate himself as a lawyer has clearly paid off.

Gray has turned heads throughout his rise in the profession while opening and successfully managing his own law firm, which a nominator said has performed brilliantly in Jackson County and federal courts.

One of his nominators marveled at how he has become one of the most frequently appointed lawyers in federal criminal cases, which “is unheard of for such a new lawyer.” Another praised Gray for being bold, taking on powerful interests on behalf of clients and being willing to go toe-to-toe with anyone.

Gray and his nominators all point to his faith and his involvement in his church as integral to his success. Gray notes that his slogan — “inspired by the pursuit of faith, family and fairness” — guides him in his professional and personal life.

What is your biggest accomplishment this year?

Resolving a case against UMKC School of Pharmacy. That case changed me as a lawyer, as a person and as a Christian. It became part of my life, and the results we accomplished without having to go to trial is a miracle in my opinion.

What is the best career advice you have received?

“If I’m going to worry, why pray?” from the Hon. Willie Epps Jr. Also, “However hard I’m working, it ain’t hard enough,” from the Hon. Steve Bough.

What advice do you have for young lawyers?

Never assume you know anything, and take every opportunity to learn that presents itself.

— Scott Andera



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UP & COMING HONOREE

Dennis Harms, 39



SHAREHOLDER AND CHAIR OF THE HEALTH LAW PRACTICE GROUP, SANDBERG PHOENIX & VON GONTARD
Location: St. Louis
Practice area(s): Health law
Law school: Saint Louis University

Dennis Harms has risen quickly through the ranks, becoming a shareholder and the practice group leader for the health law group at Sandberg Phoenix.

With a master’s degree in health information science, Harms has become an experienced medical-negligence defense trial lawyer and has earned rave reviews for his work defending health care providers and related organizations.

What also sets him apart, nominators say, is his dedication to community pursuits away from the office. Harms, who also serves as a volunteer public defender, has been appointed to the St. Louis Region Board of Directors for SSM Health, for which his father worked for more than 20 years.

He also has put in plenty of time helping with youth sports and activities, coaching several sports as his five children have grown. In fact, Harms said that if he hadn’t become a lawyer, he probably would be a high school teacher and coach.

One nominator said Harms has “probably logged more hours coaching sports than Tony La Russa,” adding: “These are unpaid coaching gigs that typically include a dose of over-the-top parents who think their son or daughter is the next Albert Pujols, but Dennis has volunteered his time as a coach for years.”

What advice do you have for young lawyers?
The time you spend making connections with other young lawyers is worth it. Get involved. Be of service.

What is something that would surprise people about you?
I am a few months away from a master’s degree in health informatics (health information management, health information technology and data analytics).

— Scott Andera

UP & COMING HONOREE

Tom Hershewe, 39



PARTNER, DOLLAR, BURNS & BECKER
Location: Kansas City
Practice area(s): Bad faith, insurance coverage, personal injury, motor-vehicle collisions
Law school: University of Missouri

With a background in competitive debate at the college level, Tom Hershewe said he thought the law would be a good way of using his skillset to help people. Turns out, it also helped to propel him to a prominent career.

He joined Dollar, Burns & Becker in 2010 after serving as a law clerk for more than four years, and he became a partner in 2015. During that time, according to a nominator, he has developed a statewide reputation as an expert in insurance-coverage disputes, bad-faith cases and general personal injury matters.

Hershewe’s work about the profession has appeared in numerous professional publications, including the American Association for Justice’s Trial Magazine. Another nominator called Hershewe one of Kansas City’s smartest attorneys, noting that he has handled many multimillion-dollar, bad-faith cases throughout the entire case and appellate process — and in many cases, making new law.

While Hershewe’s ability to handle and litigate 20 to 25 cases at a time is impressive, what he does outside the law office is more impressive, a nominator said. He devotes significant time and resources to help Operation Breakthrough, which provides a safe environment for children in poverty, and he is a member of The American Association for Justice and the Missouri Humanities Council.

What advice do you have for young lawyers?
Work hard, but also work smart. Try to find places at your firm where you will have the opportunity to learn and grow. Identify undeveloped practice areas or under-utilized skills that bring you joy, and work with your employer and mentors to build on those experiences. Be curious. Never be afraid to ask why.

What is something that would surprise people about you?
I went to four Grateful Dead shows this year. Most people find that surprising.

— Scott Andera

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Thank you, Jessica, for your accomplishments and leadership as a member of Greensfelder’s Construction Practice Group. The dedication you have shown to the firm and in your service to our clients is truly worthy of recognition. Congratulations!

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UP & COMING HONOREE

Brandon Jackson, 35



ATTORNEY AND DIVERSITY
OMBUDSMAN, BROWN & CROUPPEN
Location: St. Louis
Practice area(s): Personal injury
Law school: University of Illinois

Brandon Jackson’s commitment to helping the less fortunate extends well beyond his work on legal cases, where within the past year he secured six-figure settlements for his personal injury clients. Jackson says helping those in need is “the truest reminder of the power afforded to you by being an attorney,” and he believes pro bono work is an excellent chance to expand a lawyer’s skillset and provide a powerful reminder of why many attorneys entered the profession. He points to his undergraduate studies at Morehouse College, the alma mater of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., as the spark for his appreciation of civil rights and desire to serve his community.

Jackson has completed more than 50 hours of community service that includes jail visits and phone calls with those too poor to afford bail and private attorneys, according to his nominator. He also serves with ArchCity Defenders, working with the St. Louis-based, non-profit civil-rights law firm to connect with volunteers and help the poor navigate the court system. As an executive member of Brown & Crouppen’s diversity and inclusion committee, he helped the firm participate in the St. Louis Diversity Job Fair for the first time.

What is something that would surprise people about you?
People would be surprised to know that my passion for service almost led me into the ministry. I became a lawyer instead, but it comes from the same desire to serve..
What has been your favorite moment as an attorney?
The look on my parents’ faces when I was sworn into the profession . . . They sacrificed everything so that I could be the first college graduate in my family. Becoming an attorney was but a small way to return their investment.

— Scott Andera

UP & COMING HONOREE

Samantha B. Jones, 26



ASSOCIATE, PAULE, CAMAZINE &
BLUMENTHAL
Location: St. Louis
Practice area(s): Family law
Law school: Saint Louis University

Samantha Jones might have been practicing law for a short time, but don’t let that fool you. Her nominator said she operates at a level that others — even those who have practicing for decades longer — simply can’t. “When I think of someone with skill, professional accomplishment and leadership far beyond their years, I immediately think of Sammie,” her nominator wrote. “She has skills that most lawyers would hope to have at some point before they retire.”

Jones said she knew since kindergarten she wanted to be a lawyer. In her senior year of high school, she began an internship working for Alisse Camazine, a founding attorneys of the firm where she now is an associate. She was hooked from the first day. Jones tries to deflect attention from herself, according to her nominator, who wrote that she consistently gives back to the community through service with such organizations as Powered by Hope, the Joshua Chamberlain Society, Gateway to Hope and the St. Patrick’s Center. She also has been compared to a train, her nominator wrote: “If she’s going in a direction, you either need to jump on board or get out of the way because there is nothing that will stop her.”

What advice do you have for young lawyers?
Don’t be afraid to say yes. And find a mentor who you admire both professionally and personally.
What has been your favorite moment as an attorney?
I had a client recently tell me that, in his opinion, without me he would have never been able to see his son again. Knowing that I played a role in bringing them together and the relationship that they will have for many years to come is a very good feeling.

— Scott Andera



CONGRATULATIONS

Congratulations, Judd Treeman, on being recognized as an Up & Coming Attorney. We look forward to many more successful years ahead.

UP & COMING HONOREE

Taylor Kerns, 38



SHAREHOLDER, SIMMONS HANLY CONROY

Location: Alton, Illinois

Practice area(s): Mass tort litigation, product liability, mesothelioma and asbestos

Law school: Saint Louis University

One look at his results and rise through the ranks at his firm makes it clear Taylor Kerns’ career has been a success.

In the past two years alone, cases Kerns has spearheaded from start to end have brought more than \$220 million in recovery. He already has helped

to secure nearly \$500 million through his career in the cases he litigates and manages.

But that record tells just part of his career story. With clients facing mesothelioma diagnoses and an average life expectancy of 6-15 months, Kerns and his team have just a few months to get extremely complex cases on file and prepared for trial. What’s more, Kerns and his team work on hundreds of cases at a time.

Kerns has a deep dedication to his clients that has led him to travel across the country, sit in hospital rooms, watch clients die and help families to plan funeral arrangements, according to his nominator.

“All of the lawyering skills in the world might make a great attorney, but Taylor’s empathy and human connection to his clients make him truly exceptional,” his nominator wrote.

What advice do you have for young lawyers?

Your clients come first. It can be easy to get distracted by opposing counsel, office politics or your own ego. But these should never get in the way of acting in your clients’ best interests. And be sure to go on vacation — it’s good for you.

If you hadn’t become a lawyer, what profession would you have chosen?

A park ranger.

What is the best career advice you have received?

You miss 100 percent of the shots you don’t take.

— Scott Andera

UP & COMING HONOREE

Sarah J. Klebolt, 39



PARTNER, CARMODY MACDONALD

Location: St. Louis

Practice area: Litigation

Law school: Saint Louis University

After achieving plenty of her success in a relatively short time, Sarah Klebolt has started helping other attorneys find their own path.

She mentors associates, especially female attorneys. A longtime leader of her firm’s hiring committee, she now is responsible for tackling key issues for the firm’s future. Her nominators also rave about how she always tries to provide value to the firm and her clients, such as when she extended her

services into the health care industry.

Klebolt frequently is called on to serve on her firm’s team that handles large, complex and often high-profile litigation cases. Outside the office, she devotes time to volunteer with organizations that help young people. She served for four years on boards at Junior Achievement of Greater St. Louis, and she continues to coach youth sports.

What advice do you have for young lawyers?

Don’t be afraid to ask more senior attorneys questions. Most attorneys love sharing their knowledge and experience and will respect that you are willing to ask and learn.

What is something that would surprise people about you?

For a litigator, I really don’t enjoy public speaking.

What is your biggest accomplishment this year?

I was instrumental in defeating a claim that could have impacted a billion-dollar project in north St. Louis that will be transformational to the area.

What has been your favorite moment as an attorney?

Winning summary judgment in a \$306 million case on the eve of trial. We worked so hard on this case, and to see all of our hard work pay off was very rewarding.

— Scott Andera

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well-deserved
honor.

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“Up and Coming”
award.

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UP & COMING HONOREE

Christopher L. Kurtz, 35



SHAREHOLDER, ROUSE FRETS WHITE GOSS GENTILE RHODES

Location: Kansas City

Practice areas: Arbitrator, business litigation, medical-malpractice defense, general civil litigation, construction litigation

Law School: University of Missouri-Kansas City

Christopher Kurtz’s favorite moment as a lawyer is when a client thanks him.

Clients put their trust in attorneys “to not only navigate their legal dispute but consider the impact on their personal life, their business, their finances and their emotional well-being,” he said. “When a matter ends, regardless of outcome, and the client thanks you for helping them, it provides a feeling of accomplishment that we have done our job to serve our client.”

Kurtz is a trustee of the Johnson County Bar Foundation and, at a relatively young age, was named to the American Arbitration Association’s panel for consumer disputes. He also serves on the board of directors and as chairman of the young professionals committee for the Chamber of Commerce in Leawood, Kansas.

What inspired you to get involved in the legal profession?

It provides an opportunity to use my public speaking and debate skills and serves my thirst for reading and learning, all while providing the ability to make a difference in the lives of others.

What advice do you have for young lawyers?

We all make mistakes. It’s how we respond to those mistakes that define us. Own your mistake. Learn from it. Improve from it. Don’t make the same mistake twice.

What is the best career advice you have received?

From when I clerked at the trial court level, treat court personnel the same way you treat the judge. From private practice, your job should not feel like work. Love what you do.

What is your biggest accomplishment this year?

The birth of my second child, my son.

— Jessica Shumaker

UP & COMING HONOREE

Nathan D. Leming, 36



MEMBER, BAKER STERCHI COWDEN & RICE

Location: St. Louis

Practice Areas: Health care litigation, transportation, product liability, insurance

Law School: University of Missouri

When millions of dollars are on the line, Nate Leming is the attorney companies want on their side.

As first-chair attorney during a trial in St. Louis County, he recently secured a \$1 million defense verdict for an emergency-department client accused of failing to timely assess and treat a patient’s symptoms, which resulted in the patient’s death.

He also recently served as local counsel to successfully defend a physical-fitness client sued for alleged injuries resulting from the company’s fitness regimen. The plaintiff sought several million for their injuries.

A nominator said Leming’s “plain, honest and professional approach has earned the respect of his opponents and the court while he pursues the best interest of his clients.”

Leming recently became a member of the International Association of Defense Counsel, an invitation-only global organization for attorneys who represent corporate and insurance interests. He serves as treasurer of the board of trustees for his local library, and he’s an avid runner who leads a team that competes annually in an 82-mile trail relay race from St. Louis to Hermann.

What is something that would surprise people about you?

I know this sounds crazy living in St. Louis, but I hate the feeling of air conditioning.

What inspired you to get involved in the legal profession?

A John Grisham marathon on TV one weekend in college when I was snowed in.

What is the best career advice you have received?

Never reply to an email while you’re angry. A 24-hour cool-off period is vital.

— Jessica Shumaker



Congratulations Missouri Lawyers Media 2019 Up & Coming Honorees **Megan Stumph-Turner** and **Nathan Leming**

From East to West, we are proud to have such talented lawyers on our team.



UP & COMING HONOREE

Jason Lewis, 34



ASSISTANT DEPUTY ATTORNEY GENERAL FOR SPECIAL LITIGATION, MISSOURI ATTORNEY GENERAL’S OFFICE

Location: St. Louis

Practice Area: Civil litigation and appeals

Law School: Washington University in St. Louis

Jason Lewis advises young lawyers that law is a team-based pursuit. It’s fitting, then, that his own greatest accomplishment of the year came as part of a team effort. Lewis was part of a group of attorneys in the Missouri Attorney General’s Office who successfully secured a \$3 million federal grant to eliminate the state’s backlog of untested sexual assault forensic evidence kits.

“By tracking evidence kits, connecting victims with resources and bringing offenders to justice, it is powerful to know that this grant will make a real difference in the lives of sexual assault survivors,” he said.

Lewis also leads initiatives involving ballots and election law, the constitutionality of state statutes, Sunshine Law enforcement, and tobacco and opioid litigation. He’s also the national vice chair of the Alumni and Parents Admissions Program and a member of the Olin Business School Alumni Board at Washington University in St. Louis.

What inspired you to get involved in the legal profession?

I took several elective legal studies courses in college that first piqued my interest in the law. After that, I came to realize that the legal profession is an incredible calling for people who want to help others, contribute positively to society and uphold the rule of law.

If you hadn’t become a lawyer, what profession would you have chosen?

Before becoming an attorney, I worked in higher education administration for several years, so I likely would have continued to work at a university.

— Jessica Shumaker

UP & COMING HONOREE

Lucinda Luetkemeyer, 33



PARTNER, GRAVES GARRETT

Location: Kansas City

Practice Areas: White-collar criminal defense, campaign-finance and election law, regulatory and government enforcement, constitutional litigation, complex commercial litigation

Law School: University of Missouri

One of Lucinda Luetkemeyer’s favorite moments as an attorney was seeing firsthand the impact of her work.

As chief legal counsel for former Gov. Eric Greitens, her team drafted an executive order providing paid family leave to state employees of the executive branch.

“This was a key step to attracting and retaining talented public servants, and we heard “Thank You” from young parents across state agencies and saw more talented young people apply to state jobs,” she said.

In that role, Luetkemeyer also managed all day-to-day legal operations of the governor’s office and advised Greitens on requests for pardons, clemency and executions, and other criminal justice issues. She rejoined Graves Garrett in Kansas City in 2018 and was elected partner Jan. 1.

What is something that would surprise people about you?

My first jury trial was covered by TV news crews and a documentary filmmaker. That was surreal.

What advice do you have for young lawyers?

Be willing to leave your comfort zone and jump into a challenging new situation, even if it seems scary. Whether it is taking your first deposition or delivering the opening statement in your first jury trial, know that every young lawyer has to start somewhere. The biggest, most impossible-seeming tasks for a young litigator are the ones you’ll learn from the most. There is no substitute for diving in headfirst.

What is your favorite thing to do away from work?

You can find me in downtown Parkville, Missouri hanging out with my husband and our Goldendoodle, Truman (named after the Mizzou mascot, of course).

— Jessica Shumaker

UP & COMING HONOREE

James H. Maggard, 34



SHAREHOLDER, SEIGFEID BINGHAM

Location: Kansas City

Practice Areas: Business Litigation

Law School: University of Missouri-Kansas City

2019 has been a momentous year for Jamie Maggard — personally and professionally.

This year, Maggard ascended to the role of shareholder at Seigfreid Bingham, which became effective Oct. 1. He also welcomed home a new family member.

“Personally, my biggest accomplishment this year was becoming a father to my second son,” he said.

Maggard also became a board member of the Young Lawyers section of the Lawyer’s Association of Kansas City. He serves on his firm’s recruiting committee and is the co-leader of its associates group.

Out of the office, he is a volunteer “Study Buddy,” tutoring disadvantaged children in spelling, math and other subjects, for the nonprofit agency Operation Breakthrough. He also serves on the sponsorship committee for The Children’s Place, which provides early intervention services for young children who have experienced abuse, neglect and trauma.

What advice do you have for young lawyers?

Be available. If you do that and do the work you know you can, then you will do well because people will realize that they can rely on you. You need the chance to prove your potential. This does not mean you cannot have a good work/life balance, but it is important to be flexible.

What is something that would surprise people about you?

Probably that I have won two blue ribbons from the Missouri State Fair for jam. When I was young, I would often go berry-picking with my aunt, and we eventually started making jam and entering it in various county fairs.

What is the best career advice you have received?

“Read the damn statute.” Sometimes we forget to read the actual rule, and if you take the time to do that, the answer is often right in front of you.

— Jessica Shumaker

UP & COMING HONOREE

David L. McCain Jr., 34



ASSISTANT ATTORNEY GENERAL (LABOR SECTION UNIT LEADER), MISSOURI ATTORNEY GENERAL’S OFFICE

Location: Jefferson City

Practice Areas: Civil defense, government, appellate

Law School: University of Missouri-Kansas City

The best career advice David McCain said he has received is that talent is overrated and can get a person only so far.

“Hard work, persistence and deliberate practice will win out in the long run,” he said.

His hard work with the Missouri Attorney General’s Office — and beyond — has not gone unnoticed. Nominators pointed to McCain’s achievements, from his work on appellate cases to his rise to a management position within his office.

They also noted his leadership roles in the bar and community service work. Outside of the office, McCain is chair of the Mid-Missouri Young Lawyers Association and an elected member of The Missouri Bar Young Lawyers Section Council.

What advice do you have for young lawyers?

Find a great mentor (whether inside your organization or outside your organization) and seek out opportunities that will allow you to get substantive experience in your practice area.

What is something that would surprise people about you?

Although hip-hop and R&B are my two favorite genres of music, I also really like classical music performances at the symphony.

If you hadn’t become a lawyer, what profession would you have chosen?

Accountant or college football coach.

What is your favorite thing to do away from work?

Travel. I’ve been lucky enough to have visited a little over half of the states in the U.S. and have spent time abroad in the following locations: mainland China, Hong Kong, England, Scotland, Ireland, France, Italy and the Netherlands.

What is your biggest accomplishment this year?

Winning an appeal that I argued before the Missouri Supreme Court.

— Jessica Shumaker

UP & COMING HONOREE

Abby E. McClellan, 33



ASSOCIATE, STUEVE SIEGEL HANSON
Location: Kansas City
Practice area: Mass torts (plaintiffs)
Law School: University of Missouri-Kansas City

An elementary education class set Abby McClellan on the path to becoming a lawyer. Learning about special education law and reading about cases that had a large impact on education hit close to home for her.

"My younger brother has multiple disabilities, including autism, and until this class I had never realized why he was able to go to 'regular school,'" she said.

"I was inspired when I learned about the lawyers and advocates who helped pass laws that ensured my brother was not sent to a special school and received an education in the least restrictive environment possible."

McClellan went on to teach elementary special education before deciding to go to law school. Today, she focuses on large-scale cases involving thousands of plaintiffs across the United States.

What is something that would surprise people about you?

Prior to law school, I taught lower elementary special education in Fort Madison, Iowa. I taught students in grades K-2 with behavior disorders. I also was the head high school cheerleading coach and taught gymnastics at the YMCA, all while working toward an advanced degree in special education.

If you hadn't become a lawyer, what profession would you have chosen?

From the time I was a little girl, I wanted to be an elementary education teacher. Prior to my "a-ha" moment in undergrad where I realized being a lawyer was an option, I would have probably taught school with aspirations of being a principal or superintendent. I also love to cook, bake and entertain so I hope to someday run a bed and breakfast.

— Jessica Shumaker

UP & COMING HONOREE

Matthew "Matt" McCoy, 29



ASSOCIATE, PRESLEY & PRESLEY
Location: Kansas City
Practice Areas: Personal injury, wrongful death, insurance coverage, extra-contractual litigation
Law School: University of Missouri-Kansas City

In the past year, Matt McCoy has taken part in two high-profile jury trials that resulted in wins for his clients.

He assisted a client in securing an \$11 million bad-faith verdict in Clay County last November. One month later, he helped to secure a \$6.5 million ver-

dict for an unarmed Independence teenager who was seriously injured by a police officer's use of a stun gun.

McCoy also consults on other cases, particularly those involving insurance-related matters, and he consults and donates time to work with the Missouri Association of Trial Attorneys.

A nominator said his "core motivation is seeking justice for individuals and families who have been harmed through the negligence of others." In addition to his practice, he works with agencies serving children, including Operation Breakthrough, Just Like You Films, the Speak Up Foundation and Toys for Tots.

What advice do you have for young lawyers?

Be ready to put in your time. It will pay off in the long run.

What is something that would surprise people about you?

Contrary to what my office looks like, I am organized.

What is the best career advice you have received?

Congeniality goes a long way. Only fight over what matters and moves a case forward.

What is your favorite thing to do away from work?

Right now, we're busy preparing a nursery and baby-proofing our house. Other than that, I enjoy attending or watching Chiefs and Royals games.

— Jessica Shumaker

Congratulations, Tricia, on
another well-deserved honor!
— Bob Langdon & Kent Emison



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UP & COMING HONOREE

Jeff D. Mitchell, 38



ASSOCIATE GENERAL COUNSEL,
MISSOURI STATE UNIVERSITY

Location: Springfield

Practice Area(s): Public higher education,
contract, personal Injury

Law School: University of Missouri-Kansas
City

Jeff Mitchell says he knows that the hardest words in life are “I don’t know.” That’s why he believes in the power of humility.

According to his nominator, the Colorado native is indispensable at Missouri State University, where

he is responsible for providing legal advice and services in the division of student affairs. He also helped to establish a behavioral intervention team to help university students in crisis.

A Boy Scout troop leader and youth sports coach, he is also an active volunteer for the Big Brothers/Big Sisters Lunch Buddy Program.

“While this profession certainly has its pitfalls, I see no other profession that could have allowed me to know such a wide variety of industries, work with such dedicated professionals and be a part of so many meaningful endeavors,” he said.

What is something that would surprise people about you?

I’ve been a vegetarian for almost eight years. If I could choose to live in any fictional universe, I would choose Star Trek over Star Wars. Finally, for as long as I can remember, I have eaten the whole apple (I prefer Fujis) — core, stem and seeds.

What is the best career advice you have received?

I discovered (Terre Haute, Indiana attorney) Max Ehrmann’s prose poem “Desiderata” early in my legal career, and its wisdom and guidance have been invaluable.

What is your biggest accomplishment this year?

I have had the opportunity to work on the expansion of our campus’ footprint through the acquisition of new campus property and guide a new program focused on providing the college experience to students with intellectual and developmental disabilities.

— David Baugher

UP & COMING HONOREE

Kaitlyn Adams Parker, 30



ASSOCIATE/CONCORDANCE FELLOW,
BRYAN CAVE LEIGHTON PAISNER

Location: St. Louis

Practice Areas: Litigation, commercial
disputes

Law School: Saint Louis University

Kaitlyn Adams Parker was inspired to pursue a career in the law by one of her sisters, who has Down syndrome.

“I took pride in advocating for her needs,” said Parker, who noted that her sibling taught her the power of perseverance and forgiveness. “This desire to help the ‘underdog’ developed into an interest in serving others, specifically, those involved in

the justice system.”

Honored in 2017 as a Leader of Tomorrow in Missouri Lawyers Media’s Women’s Justice Awards, Parker is the second BCLP fellow to provide legal services to those reentering society after incarceration through her firm’s partnership with Concordance Academy of Leadership in St. Louis. She also does pro bono work through the Missouri Coalition for the Right to Counsel.

In addition to her litigation practice, she is involved in numerous firm initiatives, including its Women’s Affinity Group and Forward Through Ferguson. She also volunteers for the annual Motion for Kids holiday party.

What is something that would surprise people about you?

Earlier this year, while I was on maternity leave, I wrote a children’s book. I’ve commissioned my sister to complete the illustrations and hope to release it sometime soon.

If you hadn’t become a lawyer, what profession would you have chosen?

I’d like to think that I’d be a Broadway star or priest. Needless to say, when my soprano voice fell flat, any profession that involved singing or leading a congregation in hymns was out of the picture. No, the mere fact that Catholic priesthood is a profession reserved for males never fazed me because I was fortunate enough to be taught by my strong, independent, career-driven mother that I could do anything to which I set my mind.

What’s the best career advice you have received?

You catch more flies with honey than vinegar.

— David Baugher

UP & COMING HONOREE

Joel R. Samuels, 36



PRINCIPAL, HARNESS, DICKEY &
PIERCE

Location: St. Louis

Practice Area(s): Intellectual property, IP
litigation, brand management, licensing,
copyright and trademark prosecution

Law School: Penn State Law / Penn State
Dickinson Law

From the time he became involved with student government in middle school, Joel Samuels has found it rewarding to advocate on behalf of others.

Today, he does that every day at Harness, Dickey

& Pierce through exceptional intellectual property work that helps clients to protect the rights to their brand. Formerly focused on antitrust and mergers/acquisitions matters while practicing in New York, Samuels has developed a well-rounded approach to his current IP practice from the unique perspective of business investment and asset management.

Samuels also holds degrees in economics and political science, which his nominator said has helped him to stand out among his peers by giving him a better understanding of his clients and adversaries. In addition to his work in the courtroom and at the negotiating table, Samuels is an adjunct professor at Washington University School of Law.

What is something that would surprise people about you?

I was born in Calcutta and adopted as a baby. I have traveled throughout the world, including living in India, Israel, St. Louis, Hawaii and the East Coast. Of all of those places, St. Louis has always called me back, and I’m proud to call it home. Like most people, it’s a family town for me, with many relatives, including living on the same street as my in-laws and my parents.

If you hadn’t become a lawyer, what profession would you have chosen?

It would probably involve international affairs (e.g., State Department’s Foreign Service). At one point, I considered a career with the National Park Service. I was also a nationally certified EMT during college.

— David Baugher

UP & COMING HONOREE

Allison M. Scime, 28



ASSOCIATE, LASHLY & BAER

Location: St. Louis

Practice Area(s): Municipal government,
public education

Law School: Saint Louis University

Allison Scime once wanted to be a marine biologist — until she discovered she was afraid of fish.

Fortunately, she had no fear of the courtroom. She has built an impressive practice at Lashly & Baer representing public and governmental entities, from municipalities and libraries to transit systems and school districts. She regularly tackles everything

from free speech to student discipline, and she has developed special expertise in contractual matters and education law.

“Put simply, [she] influences daily the role of the public agencies which affect the essential elements of our community and whose activities touch our daily lives,” her nominator wrote.

“Ms. Scime recognizes that local and regional governmental institutions play an important role in our democratic society and seeks to help clients perform at their best by providing proactive guidance and practical solutions to address the complex challenges they face.”

What advice do you have for young lawyers?

Find a group of peers that you enjoy – ask for advice when you need it, listen when they need yours, and get out of the office once in a while.

What is the best career advice you have received?

Strive to make each client feel as if they are your top priority.

What has been your favorite moment as an attorney?

Each year, I attend the eighth-grade Career Day at one of the school districts my firm represents to speak to students about our profession . . . The event is one of my favorite days every year — the students are always super-curious, hilarious and thoughtful.

— David Baugher

UP & COMING HONOREE

Tyler Jacob Scott, 34



PARTNER, HUSCH BLACKWELL

Location: Kansas City

Practice Area(s): Commercial litigation, insurance coverage

Law School: University of Missouri-Kansas City

Tyler Scott still recalls fondly the first time he won a motion for summary judgement. “I’ll always remember that feeling,” he said of the judge’s dismissal of the plaintiff’s claims. “I felt like I could say, ‘That was me. I did that.’”

The truth is that Scott’s done a lot of things. From assisting clients in product liability matters and workplace safety litigation to consulting with insurers, regulators and trade groups on issues related to the nascent cannabis industry, Scott quickly has become a go-to resource for insurance clients who may be facing tens of millions of dollars in exposure in environmental cases.

Still, he finds time to be active in both the legal and the larger communities. He’s been a board member for both the Lawyers Association of Kansas City and the Young Lawyers Section — which he also served as president — and he also helps to raise scholarship funds for disadvantaged students as a board member of the Kansas City chapter of the Mizzou Alumni Association.

What advice do you have for young lawyers?

Find something that you enjoy that has nothing to do with the law, and do that thing on a regular basis. My thing was live music. Going to a concert was something I could do during the week or on the weekend that helped me escape from the world of law. The law is a stressful and demanding profession, and you need an escape every once in a while.

What inspired you to get involved in the legal profession?

A friend of the family was a litigator. I job-shadowed him when I was younger, and after that experience, I was sold. I thought the legal system and advocacy [were] enthralling.

— David Baugher

UP & COMING HONOREE

Megan R. Stumph-Turner, 36



MEMBER, BAKER STERCHI COWDEN & RICE

Location: Kansas City

Practice Area(s): Civil defense litigation, with emphasis in financial services and commercial disputes

Law School: University of Missouri

Megan Stumph-Turner advises young lawyers to never lose what is unique about their experiences, their background and their personality.

These days, her own unique achievements speak for themselves. In her civil litigation practice focused on creditor’s rights, she has represented financial institutions in thousands of cases, and she has distinguished herself both in the courtroom and as editor and lead contributor to the Baker Sterchi Cowden & Rice Financial Services Law Blog.

Promoted to member status at the beginning of this year, Stumph-Turner is a regular panelist speaker at mortgage-servicing conferences, and she provides training services on legal trends in the financial sector.

She also has volunteered with both Lead to Read and the Volunteer Attorney Project.

What is something that would surprise people about you?

People are often surprised at how much I love football and how much of a Chiefs super-fan I really am.

If you hadn’t become a lawyer, what profession would you have chosen?

One of my biggest passions is dance, so I would have worked as long as my body allowed as a professional dancer.

What has been your favorite moment as an attorney?

The time I gave the closing argument at my first jury trial. It was the perfect mix of feeling well-prepared, like my hard work was really going to pay off, but also getting to think on my feet and be creative in addressing points that plaintiff’s counsel had made in his closing. I knew no matter the verdict, I had done everything I could do. Fortunately, the verdict was good, too.

— David Baugher

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UP & COMING HONOREE

Judd M. Treeman, 37



PARTNER, STINSON
Location: Kansas City
Practice Area(s): Real estate development, public finance
Law School: Emory University

Judd Treeman says that if he hadn’t been a lawyer, he might have just as easily been a philosophy professor, a theoretical physicist or a fishing guide. Instead, he’s negotiated more than \$3 billion in complex business deals nationwide. Operating in the often-opaque universe of commerce and real estate, Treeman has developed what his nominator calls his “impressive back-ground in corporate and public finance” as well as a track record of success in major deals where eight or even nine figures regularly weigh in the balance. His involvement with real estate began early, as his parents operate a large-complex, urban, multifamily and mixed-use-development company with projects in multiple states. Treeman is a member of the spring 2021 class in the Greater Kansas City Chamber of Commerce Centurions leadership program, and he serves pro bono as special outside counsel for the Marlborough Community Coalition in Kansas City.

What is something that would surprise people about you?
In high school and undergrad, I worked as an IT and network administrator for a small retail chain, where I taught myself to code software, which I currently use to trade futures and streamline my legal workflow.

What has been your favorite moment as an attorney?
Years ago, I defended adoptive parents’ rights to keep a little boy in their family of five at the Texas Supreme Court. The day after receiving the mandate, that family hosted a party celebrating the result. The gratitude in their eyes was humbling and fulfilling. And watching that little boy playing with his sisters, knowing that they’d have many years of that to come, was just the most beautiful thing to watch.

— David Baugher

UP & COMING HONOREE

Jennifer Visintine, 40



PARTNER, THOMPSON COBURN
Location: St. Louis
Practice Area(s): Intellectual property, media law
Law School: University of Missouri

Whether she is negotiating a multimillion-dollar software license agreement or managing a trademark portfolio for a major telecommunications company, Jennifer Visintine applies one important rule. “Treat every client like your best client,” she said. “Your level of service to your client shouldn’t change because of the size of the project or for any other reason.” Now, a part of her firm’s intellectual property and media law practice groups, Visintine is an established expert in fair use and copyright matters who has contributed to The Missouri Bar Media Handbook and other publications. She helps clients to protect their brands by advising them on complex issues ranging from domain name disputes to ecommerce matters to privacy concerns. In 2018, the International Trademark Association recognized her for pro bono efforts that included helping to create the association’s Pro Bono Clearinghouse, which matches eligible clients with association members who can provide free trademark legal services. She also provides pro bono services through Volunteer Lawyers and Accountants for the Arts.

What advice do you have for young lawyers?
Never be afraid to ask questions. It seems simple, but asking questions, especially those that others are afraid to ask, is an important piece of professional success.

What is something that would surprise people about you?
I started participating in triathlons about four years ago. Since I began, I have completed roughly a half-dozen. The funny thing is, up until a month before my first triathlon, I didn’t own a bike. Now, biking is my favorite leg of the race, and for the fourth year in a row, I am participating in Pedal the Cause, a cycling race to raise funds for cancer research.

— David Baugher

UP & COMING HONOREE

Brian Winebright, 31



PARTNER, CANTOR INJURY LAW
Location: St. Louis
Practice Area: Personal injury
Law School: University of Missouri

Since earning his law degree in 2013, Brian Winebright, a partner at Cantor Injury Law in St. Louis, has taken several cases to verdict and been lead counsel in several cases that have resolved for millions of dollars. He’s already begun passing on his skills to future attorneys. Earlier this year, he became an assistant adjunct professor at Harris-Stowe State University, where he teaches Introduction to Law to undergraduate students. Winebright serves as a board member of the Cantor Injury Law Charitable Foundation Inc. and also volunteers with Giddo Simon Ministries, which puts on a Breakfast with Santa event for a local elementary school every year.

What is something that would surprise people about you?
My first job was selling produce at Soulard Market for my grandfather, who immigrated to St. Louis from Lebanon in 1947. I was only allowed to quit once I obtained gainful employment as an attorney at the age of 25.

What inspired you to get involved in the legal profession?
My uncles, who are attorneys, highlighted the challenges of practicing law and the need to become an expert on every case. When you have to handle experts from the opposing side, you have to become an expert yourself. Whether that means researching the standard of care for a certain surgery, studying alternative designs for an unsafe product or gathering safety regulations for amusement park rides, you are always expanding your knowledge base and using it to immediately help your clients.

What is the best career advice you have received?
While we work in an adversarial system, showing respect to witnesses, parties and everyone else involved in our work can go a long way in making our jobs (and lives) more enjoyable.

— Scott Lauck

UP & COMING HONOREE

Daniel Zdrodowski, 31



ASSOCIATE, HAIS, HAIS & GOLDBERGER
Location: Clayton
Practice Areas: Family law
Law School: Saint Louis University

At one point, Daniel Zdrodowski seriously thought of becoming an apprentice silversmith. “I eventually decided, though, that becoming a lawyer would be a better use of my skills and a better contribution to society,” he said. It’s a good thing he did. Since earning his law degree in 2014, Zdrodowski has first- and second-chaired numerous cases, and he won 11 out of his past 11 motions for summary judgment, according to his nominator. Among other charitable endeavors, he is helping to organize a lawyers association within the Missouri Athletic Club and a neighborhood association for his area of St. Louis. He also recently ran for a seat on The Missouri Bar Board of Governors and has been selected as a member of the Board of Freeholders for St. Louis.

What advice do you have for young lawyers?
Be client-centered. At the end of the day, the opinions of your clients are the ones that matter the most. This may mean putting yourself in difficult situations, whether it be risking embarrassment to argue a tricky motion or simply offering a compassionate ear if they want to cry. Remember that they come first, and without them, we are just people in suits reading books.

What is something that would surprise people about you?
In undergrad, I sang with the New Orleans Opera, wrote and recorded a country music album and founded a small boarding house for Marines who lived off-base.

What is your biggest accomplishment this year?
I took on a case that several much more seasoned lawyers took a pass at. They said that I did not have the facts on my side. They said the applicable law was against me. My opposing counsel thought this as well and refused to settle, putting my client in a precarious situation. I threw everything I could into the case and won after a full trial. My client was crying in relief, and it was one of my proudest moments as an attorney.

— Scott Lauck



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**Mark C.
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Senior Vice President,
Chief Legal &
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Spire Inc.

Chrissy Teske
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