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# CURRICULUM VITAE, JOHN C. HOLSTEIN

Currently Former Missouri Supreme Court Judge John Holstein is engaged full time as an arbitrator, mediator and in other forms of alternative dispute resolution (ADR) in Springfield, Missouri. Until December 31, 2015, he split his time between litigation and ADR as a Shareholder and Senior Partner with Polsinelli, P.C. He joined the Polsinelli firm in 2002 after he left the Missouri Supreme Court. From 1995-1997 he was the Chief Justice of that Court. He now limits his practice to alternative dispute resolution (ADR). He came to the Missouri Supreme Court in 1989 from the Missouri Court of Appeals, Southern District, based in Springfield. He served as an Appeals Court Judge and Chief Judge from the Spring of 1987 through late 1989.

John came to the Court of Appeals from being a trial judge. He was elected as Presiding Judge of Missouri's 37<sup>th</sup> Judicial Circuit, where he previously held office as Probate and Ex-Officio Magistrate Judge and later Associate Circuit Judge. John was a trial court judge for 12 years.

He has the distinction of being the only judge in Missouri history to have served at every level of the Missouri state judiciary.

Before becoming a judge, John practiced law with the firm of Moore and Brill in West Plains Missouri. His practice included a broad range of criminal, commercial and real estate litigation, family law and probate.

In recent years, he has gone beyond the courtroom, handling hundreds of cases by way of alternative dispute resolution (mediation and arbitration).

John has authored more than 300 majority opinions and participated in more than 1,000 appellate opinions while serving as a Judge and Chief Justice of the Supreme Court of Missouri and as a Judge and Chief Judge of the Missouri Court of Appeals, Southern District. He returned to practice in Springfield, Missouri, in 2002. Since then, John has dedicated himself to the mission of securing a just, speedy, inexpensive and final resolution of disputes on the merits. He is convinced that resolving disputes early is a key to accomplishing that mission.

ADR includes mediation, arbitration, acting as special master, and evaluating claims for attorneys and clients. For the last 14 years John has spent about one-third of his time serving in such capacities, saving time and money for parties to litigation. He is now doing it full time.

John has served on the board of the Springfield Metropolitan Bar Association; Rotary Board; the board of the United Way of the Ozarks; and on the fundraising committee of Legal Services of Southwest Missouri. John served 27 years in the United States Army, active and reserve, retiring in 1997 holding the rank of Lt. Col. He was actively involved in the campaign to adopt the Non-Partisan Court Plan in Missouri's Thirty-First Circuit (Greene County) the only urban circuit that still elected judges on a partisan ballot. He continues to provide service to his community and the bar by serving pro bono as a hearing officer for the Missouri Bar's disciplinary system, and as chairperson of the Springfield, Missouri Personnel Board that provides administrative hearings on personnel matters for the City.

## DISTINCTIONS

- Missouri Lawyers Weekly Award for securing the largest reported settlement in the State of Missouri, 2015
- Presented with the Spurgeon Smithson Award by The Missouri Bar Foundation for significant contributions to the administration of justice, 2015
- Selected for Distinguished Attorney Award, The Springfield Metropolitan Bar Association, 2014
- Locke & Smith Defender of the Constitution Award, September 2012
- Benjamin Cardozo Award, Missouri Association of Criminal Defense Lawyers, April 2012
- Commencement address at Missouri State University, Business School, May 2012
- Selected for inclusion in The Best Lawyers in America 2005-2016 in of the following areas:
  - Appellate Practice
  - Commercial Litigation

- Litigation - Banking & Finance
- Litigation - Labor & Employment
- Litigation - Land Use & Zoning
- Litigation - Real Estate
- Local Litigation Star recognition in Benchmark Litigation 2009-2015
- SMSU Outstanding Alumni Award (1996)
- Recognized in 1995 for having been a founding member and first chairperson of the Central States Judicial Council on Child Support Enforcement
- Honored in 1997 for having served as chairperson of the Appellate Judicial Commission from 1995-97
- Selected for inclusion in Missouri & Kansas Super Lawyers, 2005, 2008-2013

## KEY MATTERS

*Undertook an appeal for a client involving a \$200-million-dollar development project, obtained a reversal of an adverse judgment against his client, then returned to the trial court and obtained a summary judgment in favor of the same client.*

*In a matter of first impression, successfully argued to the Missouri Supreme Court that client, though not the natural father of a child, had assumed the role of a father and therefore had standing to seek custody and visitation of the child.*

*Successfully represented clients in federal cases involving tort claims both for plaintiffs and defendants, including claims before the United States Court of Appeals, Eighth Circuit*

## EDUCATION

His educational background includes: B.A in Political Sciences, Missouri State University; J.D. University Missouri –Columbia; L.L.M University of Virginia.