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Derek Johannsen
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EXPERIENCE

Johannsen Law LLC – Owner 2024-PRESENT, Kansas City, MO

Litigator with 20 years in high stakes matters ranging from wrongful death to child abuse to construction. After having served as lead counsel in highly publicized abuse and neglect cases, Johannsen Law LLC opened to focus on Alternative Dispute Resolution including mediation and arbitration. I have been mediating cases for 2 years and primarily focusing practice on ADR since 2024. I am an approved mediator in Missouri, Kansas, a member of the Mediation Assessment Programs in both the Western District of Missouri and District of Kansas, and with the American Arbitration Association. I have tried cases as both a plaintiff and defendant in both state and federal court. I have mediated 500+ cases as a party and served as a mediator in approximately 200 mediations.

Franke, Schultz & Mullen/ Managing Partner - Kansas Office 2011–2024, Overland Park, KS

Litigation partner with 18 years' experience defending complex litigation up to and including trial matters in areas including personal injury, construction, employment, mental health and professional liability in both federal and state courts across the country, but primarily Kansas and Missouri. Significant experience as lead counsel defending national sports governing bodies and child placement/mental health organizations in highly salacious and dangerous litigation while working hand in hand with general counsel to ensure both cohesive litigation strategies and public posture.

Waldeck, Matteuzzi & Sloan / Associate 2007-2011, Leawood, KS

Associate litigation attorney defending personal injury with specialization in transportation and commercial cases that included significant work with regulatory statutes including the Federal Motor Carrier Safety Regulations and frequent questions of diversity jurisdiction.

Wallace, Saunders, Austin, Brown & Enochs / Associate

2006 - 2007, Overland Park, KS

Associate litigation attorney defending personal injury, construction and commercial cases.

Jackson County Prosecutor's Office

2004 - 2006, Kansas City, MO

Kansas City Royals

2003 - 2004, Kansas City, MO

Media Relations and Baseball Operations

Education

University of Missouri at Kansas City / Juris Doctor - 2006, Kansas City, MO

Saint Louis University / Honors BA Criminal Justice - 2003, St. Louis, MO

Admissions

Kansas # 22569

Missouri # 59195

United States District Court for the District of Kansas

United States District Court for the Western District of Missouri

United States District Court for the Eastern District of Missouri

8th Circuit Court of Appeals

9th Circuit court of Appeals

10th Circuit Court of Appeals

Recent Trials

Cott v. YMCA,

Cain v. Hotel of Terror, LLC, Greene County, MO

Dagnan v. St. John's Military School (Arbitration), U.S. District Court, District of KS

Bailey v. Bass, Johnson County, KS

Underwood v. Memorial Chapel Funeral Home, Jackson County, MO

Luke v. City of Stansbury, Gentry County, MO

Sowers v. Hill, Atchison County, KS

Green v. Garner et al., U.S. District Court, Southern District of MO

Whetstine v. Billings, Cass County, MO

Fligge v. Damon Purcell Construction, Jackson County, MO

Hickman v. McCain, Jackson County, MO

Awards/Accolades

"Missouri/Kansas Rising Star" and/or "SuperLawyer" in the "SuperLawyers" edition of Law and Politics Magazine ten times

Thomas E. Deacy, Sr. award for excellence in trial advocacy awarded by UMKC School of Law

UMKC Law School Honor Court Prosecutor