

Christopher C. Tillary

Shareholder

Chris Tillary is a trial lawyer and business litigator. He represents business and commercial clients in jury trials, bench trials, class actions, arbitrations, administrative hearings, and mediations, primarily in the areas of business and commercial litigation, employment litigation, construction litigation, products' liability, and premises liability.

An experienced and effective litigator who strives for exceptional results. For over a decade, Chris has successfully tried or arbitrated cases throughout Kansas, Missouri and the United States for a wide-array of clients, including small, mid-size and large businesses, publicly-traded companies, and private and public organizations and individuals. His broad and extensive litigation background encompasses a wide-range of both simple and complex cases, including commercial contract disputes, construction defect and design errors, discrimination and retaliation claims, fraud, tortious interference and other business tort actions, personal injury defense, wrongful death, medical malpractice, mechanics liens, commercial property disputes, landlord-tenant disputes, landowner liability claims, commercial lending disputes, regulatory and administrative actions and investigations, intellectual property disputes, tax disputes, and actions between public officials. Chris fully understands and appreciates the challenges, risks, and expense litigation poses for his clients. He prioritizes being attentive, responsive, and thorough in his communications with clients while his skill, preparation, and dedication allow them to focus on their business and family, knowing that their case is well in hand. Above all, he is a problem solver who prides himself on finding innovative legal solutions that yield effective results and limit his client's costs and exposure as much as possible.



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Representative Litigation

- Representation of Sheriff of Clay County in mandamus action brought against County Commission for failure to fund county jail. Obtaining nearly \$1 million judgment at trial, affirmed on appeal with additional \$200,000 in attorney's fees awarded to Sheriff.
- Representation of equipment dealer in sex, disability, and retaliation claims brought by former employee in Jackson County Circuit Court. Obtaining summary judgment in favor of client on all claims, affirmed on appeal.
- Representation of Canadian equipment supplier in breach of contract action by Kansas customer in Kansas federal court. Obtaining early dismissal in favor of client on all claims for lack of personal jurisdiction.
- Representation of large Wyandotte County shopping center in Kansas federal court. Obtaining pre-trial dismissal of RICO and Lanham Act claims totaling over \$1 million, resulting in favorable settlement for client.
- Representation of local engineering firm in \$600,000 lien claim for engineering and survey work performed on large tract of undeveloped Wyandotte County property. Defeating summary judgment, resulting in favorable settlement for client.
- Representation of national intermodal company in \$200,000 personal injury case involving heavy equipment at local railroad yard. Obtaining pre-trial dismissal of key claims, resulting in favorable settlement for client.
- Representation of bath tub manufacturer in product's liability case in Kansas federal court where plaintiff alleged injuries totaling over \$2.1 million in damages. Obtaining pre-trial dismissal of key claims resulting in favorable settlement for client.
- Representation of large, local energy company in state and federal employment discrimination, retaliation and hostile work environment cases throughout the United States.
- Representation of large, privately-owned grocery retailer in premises liability cases throughout Kansas City metro area.
- Representation of product manufacturers and insurers in fire losses and product liability cases involving claims of defect in design, manufacture and warnings of various industrial and consumer products such as Christmas trees, lawnmowers, bathtubs, and spray-booths.
- Representation of physicians and health care facilities and providers in professional malpractice claims throughout Missouri and Kansas.
- Representation of national and publicly-traded engineering firm in arbitration seeking \$20 million in damages arising from alleged errors in HVAC system design.
- Representation of concrete labor and supply company in numerous mechanics lien cases throughout Kansas City metro area resulting in favorable judgments and collections for client.

Published Case Opinions

- *State ex rel. Vescovo v. Clay County*, 2019 WL 6533937 (Mo. Ct. App. Dec. 5, 2019)
- *Manko Window Sys., Inc. v. Prestik*, 2017 WL 4355580 (D. Kan. Sept. 29, 2017)
- *Weber v. Ferrellgas, Inc.*, 2016-Ohio-4738, 68 N.E.3d 207
- *Hyde v. Ferrellgas, Inc.*, 2015 WL 12762025 (N.D. Ga. Jan. 12, 2015)
- *Manuel v. Wichita Hotel Partners*, 2010 WL 4025607 (D. Kan. Oct. 13, 2010)

Community focused and an advocate for special needs. Chris moved to the Midwest as a teenager from New Orleans, Louisiana. He resides in Overland Park, Kansas with his wife, Amy, three children, and one dog. Both he and his wife are active members of the Kansas City special needs community, having had a child diagnosed with Autism Spectrum Disorder at a young age themselves. In addition to advocating and providing pro bono legal representation for special needs families, Chris volunteers for a variety of local special needs organizations such as Camp Encourage, and is a Board Member for the Joshua Center for Neurological Disorders. Additionally, Chris is a member of several legal and business development associations, including a Life Fellow of the American Bar Foundation, an invitation-only recognition.

Court Admissions:

- Kansas Supreme Court
- Missouri Supreme Court
- United States Court of Appeals for the Tenth Circuit
- United States Court of Appeals for the Eighth Circuit
- 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
- United States District Court for the District of Colorado

Education

University of Kansas, School of Law, J.D., 2006, CALI Excellence for the Future Award, KU Law Student Ambassador
 Emporia State University, B.A., 2002, Dean's List (1999 – 2002), Phi Alpha Theta Honor Society, Sigma Pi Fraternity

Admissions

Kansas, 2006
 Missouri, 2007

Services

[Advertising, Marketing, and Promotions](#)
[Business Litigation](#)
[Class Action Defense](#)
[Commercial Lending](#)
[Corporate Bankruptcy](#)
[Construction Law](#)
[Construction Litigation](#)
[Corporate Law](#)
[Creditor Rights](#)
[Data, Privacy, and Technology](#)
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[Litigation](#)
[Employment Law](#)
[Equipment Dealers](#)
[Equipment Dealer Litigation](#)
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[Health Care Law](#)
[Intellectual Property](#)
[Intellectual Property Litigation](#)
[Litigation](#)
[Real Estate Law](#)
[Real Estate Litigation](#)
[Restaurant and Hospitality](#)
[Transportation Law](#)
[Banking and Financial Services](#)

Pro Hac Vice Admissions:

- United States District Court for the Northern District of Iowa
- United States District Court for the Northern District of Illinois
- United States District Court for the Western District of Oklahoma
- United States District Court for the Central District of California
- United States District Court for the Northern District of Georgia
- United States District Court for the Western District of Louisiana
- Eleventh Appellate District, Court of Appeals, Ohio

Professional Affiliations:

- American Bar Association
- American Bar Foundation: Fellow (Membership limited to one percent of lawyers admitted to practice in the United States who have demonstrated leadership in the profession and service to society), 2020-Present
- Johnson County Bar Association
- Earl E. O'Conner American Inn of Court
- The Missouri Bar
- Kansas Bar Association
- Kansas City Metropolitan Bar Association: CLE Advisory Committee; Civil Litigation Section Board of Directors; Business Litigation Committee Chair and Former Vice-Chair, 2017-2019
- National Institute for Trial Advocacy

Professional Recognitions:

- *Super Lawyers* – Top Rated Business Litigation Attorney
- *Missouri & Kansas Rising Stars*, 2012-2017
- *The Construction Attorneys* – Missouri Recommended Lawyer

Published Works & Speaking Engagements:

- Presenter: "No Prescription Needed: The Constitutional Right to Access Medical Marijuana in Missouri," (UMKC School of Pharmacy, 2019)
- Author: ["Kansas Supreme Court Overturns Statutory Cap on 'Pain and Suffering' and Other Noneconomic Damages in Personal Injury Cases."](#) (Client Alert Bulletin, June 2019)
- Co-Author: ["What Constitutes 'Wrongful Conduct' in Interference with Contractual or Economic Relations?"](#) (ABA Business Torts Practice Pointer, May 2019)
- Author: ["Client Friendly Changes to Missouri Employment Laws: What You Should Know"](#) (Client Alert Bulletin, May 2017)
- Author/Presenter: "Discovery Issues and Motions Common to Business Litigation," *Business Litigation Handbook of Annual Seminar*, (KCMBA, 2017)
- Co-Author: "Chapter 10 – Midwest Region," *Construction Law Update*, (Aspen Publishers, 2013)
- Co-Author: "Chapter 10 – Midwest Region," *Construction Law Update*, (Aspen Publishers, 2012)
- Presenter: "Greater Kansas City Premises Liability Primer," (EMC Risk Services Seminar, 2011)
- Presenter: "Medical Malpractice and Negligence Overview," (K.C. Area Rehabilitation Management Forum, 2011)
- Presenter: "Navigating the Social Media Maze: How to Use Facebook, MySpace and Twitter as Litigation Tools," (KBA/YLS Seminar, 2011)