



ELAINE DRODGE KOCH

Senior Trial Counsel
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BIOGRAPHY

Elaine has more than 40 years' experience as a trial lawyer. Her practice focuses primarily on employment litigation, fiduciary litigation and business torts, in addition to training and counseling clients on employment issues. She has tried a wide variety of jury trials in state and federal court. She has also tried arbitrations, bench trials, and the largest individual taxpayer case in the history of the United States Tax Court. Her litigation experience includes contract disputes, class actions, employment litigation, trusts, estates and fiduciary litigation, whistleblower claims and non-compete litigation. Elaine's experience also includes serving as an expert witness and as an independent investigator.

Elaine served as the global leader of BCLP's Labor and Employment Practice for eight years. She is a national speaker on litigation techniques and employment law, served on the editorial board of the

Practical Litigator and has been an active member of the American Bar Association, serving in a number of national leadership roles in the Labor and Employment Section and frequently speaking at national meetings. She was awarded the David Dixon Award for outstanding achievement in appellate advocacy, the KCMBA President's Award for founding an internship program for inner city youth, the Hon. H. Michael Coburn Community Service Award by Legal Aid of Western Missouri and was inducted as a fellow in the College of Labor and Employment Lawyers.

Elaine has been repeatedly named by the *Kansas City Business Journal* as one of the "Best of The Bar" in the Kansas City area, she has been repeatedly named a "Super Lawyer" in Kansas and Missouri (including "Top 50 Women" in Kansas and Missouri) and she has been repeatedly recognized as one of the Best Lawyers in America. Elaine has also been named by *USA Chambers* as a leader in Labor and Employment. She was selected by the *Kansas City Business Journal* to the Women Who Mean Business group and by *Kansas City Magazine* as one of the city's Influential Women. She also received the Women's Justice Award from *Missouri Lawyers' Weekly*, recognizing contributions to the practice of law and leadership as a female litigator. She was named in 2017 as one of *Ingram's Magazine's* "50 Missourians You Should Know."

CIVIC INVOLVEMENT & HONORS

- *Chambers & Partners USA*, Kansas City Labor & Employment, 2008-2024
- Missouri Lawyers POWER List in top Missouri Employment Law Attorneys
- Saint Luke's Hospital Board of Directors, President
- *The Best Lawyers in America*® for Litigation: Labor & Employment Law
- *Missouri Lawyers Weekly*, 'Power 30' Missouri Employment Lawyer, 2020-2024
- National World War I Museum and Memorial, Board of Trustees, Former Board Chair; Executive Committee Member
- Nelson Atkins Museum Business Council, Executive Committee, Former Co-Chair
- The Pembroke Hill School, Board of Trustees, Former Executive Committee, Treasurer, Secretary, and Vice-President
- NCCJ (National Conference for Community and Justice, aka National Conference of Christians and Jews), Former Regional President and Executive Committee member

PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS

- Kansas City Bar Foundation, Former Member of the Board of Directors
- ABA Sections of Labor and Litigation, the Missouri, Kansas, Texas, and Kansas City Metropolitan Bar Associations
- Women Lawyer's Association
- *The Practical Litigator*, National Editorial Board Member
- UMKC Law School Minority Affairs Committee, Former Co-Chair with Judge Fernando Gaitan
- Western District of Missouri Federal Practice Committee (Advisory Committee to the Court), Former Chair
- College of Labor and Employment Lawyers, Fellow

ADMISSIONS

- Kansas, 1989
- Missouri, 1988
- Texas, 1984

EDUCATION

Columbia University, J.D., Harlan Fiske Stone Scholar, 1984

University of Southampton-England, Diploma in Graduate Studies, 1981

University of Tennessee, B.A., *summa cum laude*, 1980

RELATED CAPABILITIES

- Employment & Labor
- Investigations
- Regulation, Compliance & Advisory
- Hotels & Hospitality
- Real Estate Retail
- Litigation & Dispute Resolution
- Antitrust Class Actions
- Shareholder Securities and Mergers & Acquisitions
- Food, Ag & Nutrition (Class Actions)

- Retail & Consumer Products
- Consumer Fraud
- Insurance (Class Actions)
- Pharmaceutical & Medical Devices (Class Actions)
- Class Actions
- Fiduciary Disputes
- Cross-border Employment Issues
- Employment Class & Collective Actions
- Sports (Class Actions)
- Data Privacy, Telecommunications & Collections
- Private Client
- Tax & Private Client
- Class Actions & Mass Torts
- Financial Services
- Business & Commercial Disputes

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Awards

Aug 17, 2023

The Best Lawyers in America® 2024

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Jun 01, 2023

Chambers USA 2023

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Aug 18, 2022

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Aug 03, 2022

Two from BCLP Recognized by 'Missouri Lawyers Weekly' as Top Employment Lawyers

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Aug 19, 2021

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Jul 08, 2021

Two from BCLP Recognized by 'Missouri Lawyers Weekly' as Top Employment Lawyers

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May 20, 2021

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Nov 10, 2020

Koch and Hunter Recognized in 'Missouri Lawyers Weekly' as Top Employment Lawyers