



Resume

Professional Certifications and Titles

- Certified Civil Trial Advocacy, National Board of Trial Advocacy
 - Served on Board of Directors
 - Past president
- Certified Specialist in Medical Malpractice, American Board of Professional Liability Attorneys to 2009
- Certified Mediator, Kansas Supreme Court, Core and Civil
- Certified Mediator, U.S. District Court, District of Kansas
- Certified Mediator, U.S. District Court, Western District of Missouri

Mediation Experience

- Certified Mediator, U.S. District Court
- Specialized training courses
 - Kansas Bar Association
 - American College of Civil Trial Mediators
 - International Academy of Mediators
 - Construction Mediation, Pepperdine Law School
- Guest lecturer
 - Kansas Trial Lawyers Association
 - Kansas Bar Association
 - Washburn University Law School

Professional Organizations

- Kansas Trial Lawyers Association
 - Past member, Board of Governors
 - Past president
- Association of Trial Lawyers of America
 - Past member, Board of Governors
 - Chairman, Home Office and Budget Committee
 - Chairman, American Law Institute Relations Committee
 - Chairman, Constitutional Challenge Committee
 - Member, Amicus Curiae Committee
 - Member, Legal Affairs Committee
- American Law Institute
 - Members Consultative Groups for the Restatement of Torts 3d segments on Product Liability, General Principles of Tort Liability and Apportionment
- Master of the Bench, Sam Crow, American Inns of Court

- Member, Scribes Organization of Legal Authors
- Kansas Supreme Court Nominating Commission
 - Second Congressional District, two terms
- Trial Lawyers for Public Justice
 - Past member, Board of Directors
 - Nominee, Trial Lawyer of the Year

Honorary Organizations

- Fellow, American College of Trial Lawyers
 - Chairman
- Fellow, International Academy of Trial Lawyers
 - Board member
- Member, American Board of Trial Advocacy to 2009
 - Past president, Kansas Chapter
- Fellow, International Academy of Mediators
- Fellow, American College of Civil Trial Mediators

Awards

- Arthur Hodgson Award, Kansas Trial Lawyers Association
- Koskoff Award, National Board of Trial Advocacy
- Certificate of Excellence, Association of the Trial Lawyers of America, awarded three times
- Consumer Advocate Award for *Long v. Turk* (1998), Kansas Trial Lawyers Association

Past Employment

- Palmer, Leatherman & White, Managing Partner
- Fisher, Patterson, Saylor & Smith (defense firm), Partner and Associate
- Fisher & Benfer (plaintiff's personal injury and defense), Associate

Appellate Cases of Note:

Lead counsel in 3 cases overruling prior case:

- *Glenn v. Fleming*, 247 Kan. 296 (1990)
- *Flax v. Kansas Turnpike Authority*, 226 Kan. 2 (1979)
- *Smith v. Union Pacific*, 222 Kan. 303 (1977)

Lead counsel in cases of first impression:

- *Long v. Turk*, 265 Kan. 855 (1998), Establishing the liability of gun owners to exercise the highest degree of care (one of two such rulings in the United States)
- Co-counsel in *Kansas Malpractice Victims Coalition v. Bell*, 243 Kan. 333 (1998), Declaring unconstitutional limitations of liability under The Medical Malpractice Tort Reform Act
- *Sheila A. v. Whiteman*, 259 Kan. 549 (1996), First case in which the Kansas Supreme Court overturned an attorney fee award in either a common fund case or a civil rights attorney fees matter
- *Harding v. K. C. Wall Products*, 250 Kan. 655 (1992), Upholding the constitutionality of reforms to statute of repose for latent diseases
- *Jackson v. Wood*, 11 Kan. App. 2d 478 (Kan. App. 1986),

First case holding liability for personal injury under The Kansas Landlord/Tenant Act

- *Carpenter v. Johnson*, 231 Kan. 783 (1982), Application of Manual Uniform Traffic Control Devices to roadway defects
- *Bell v. Kent Brown Chevrolet*, 1 Kan. App. 2d 131 (Kan. App. 1977), First case under The Kansas Consumer Protection Act
- *St. David's v. Westboro Baptist Church*, 22 Kan. App. 2d 537 (cert. Den'd. U.S.S.Ct.), Case of first impression in the United States on right of religious privacy
- Multiple other cases regarding first impression issues under-uninsured motorist, personal-injury protection, benefits and other liability insurance issues.