

Justin A. Hardin
Senior Associate



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Practice Areas

Health Care Liability
Insurance Law
Premises and Retail Liability
Product Liability
Professional Liability
Workers Compensation

Education

University of Missouri-Kansas City (J.D., 2005)
University of Missouri-Columbia (B.A., 2002)



Justin Hardin focuses his practice on the defense of lawsuits involving death, serious injury and professional liability. He devotes a substantial portion of his trial practice to defending real estate brokers and agents in professional liability suits. As a licensed real estate agent with significant experience acting both as a buyer's and seller's agent, Mr. Hardin is uniquely positioned to defend real estate professionals. He frequently counsels real estate agents during transactions, as well.

Mr. Hardin also defends physicians, medical schools, nurses, hospitals, nursing homes and other health care providers in medical negligence and health care lawsuits. He has further defended *Fortune* 500 companies, individuals and political subdivisions in lawsuits ranging from product liability, wrongful death, premises liability, defamation, toxic chemical exposure and motor vehicle collisions.

Mr. Hardin is admitted to the bar in Missouri, Illinois and Kansas. He has successfully defended suits in state and federal courts. He also has experience defending workers' compensation claims.

Professional Affiliations

Claims and Litigation Management Alliance
American Bar Association
Missouri Bar
Bar Association of Metropolitan St. Louis
Defense Research Institute
St. Louis Association of REALTORS®
National Association of REALTORS®

Bar Admissions

Missouri
Illinois
Kansas
U.S. District Court for the Western District of Missouri
U.S. District Court for the Eastern District of Missouri
U.S. District Court for the Southern District of Illinois

Recent Achievements

Rising Stars - Civil Litigation: Defense, *Missouri & Kansas Super Lawyers* (2014-2017)

Favorable Jury Verdicts

Dealey v. CCE911, et al. - Obtained summary judgment in defamation and conspiracy to commit defamation claim made by the former independent contractor for an emergency dispatching agency. Plaintiff claimed that her contract to serve as an IT consultant for a dispatching agency was wrongfully terminated and alleged she was defamed by a board member and the executive director who allegedly claimed she took kickbacks from vendors and overbilled the agency by thousands of dollars. Mr. Hardin first obtained summary judgment on behalf of the dispatching agency on the basis of sovereign immunity and then successfully obtained summary judgment on behalf of the remaining individual defendants based on official immunity.

Sharon Fischer v. Jansen, et al. - Second chaired a jury trial in a medical malpractice case involving abdominal surgery. Plaintiff had elective laparoscopic cholecystectomy and suffered a bowel perforation. Plaintiff alleged the defendants should have performed the repair surgery a day earlier. Defendants argued the doctor acted appropriately. The plaintiff requested \$450,000, and the jury returned a verdict in favor of the defendants.

Cockrell v. AAF McQuay Inc. - Second chaired jury trial in Boone County, Missouri, involving rear-end collision representing defendant corporation. Plaintiff requested \$125,000 from jury. Jury returned verdict in amount of \$1,000, which was less than the offer of judgment filed by defendant early in the suit.

Zammit v. MSCHA, et al. - Assisted in the successful representation of Mid-States Club Hockey Association obtaining defense verdict in a negligence claim alleging inadequate security and failure to prevent plaintiffs' injuries as a result of a fight after a high school hockey game.

Land/Ivory v. DMM Industries, et al. - Obtained summary judgment on behalf of paddle boat manufacturer in wrongful death and product liability claims of families of young men who drowned in lake at resort while using manufacturer's paddle boat.

Dorsey v. Northeast Ambulance & Fire Protection District, et al. - Obtained dismissal with prejudice in wrongful death claim of decedent's wife against Ambulance & Fire Protection District where it was alleged that the ambulance responded to the wrong location in drowning emergency causing decedent's death.

Bethesda Foundation v. John Bender, Inc. - Obtained summary judgment on behalf of defendant subcontractor on plaintiff's claim of negligence resulting from a fire causing

property damage in excess of \$8 million.

Griffin/Elder v. Rhino's Truck Accessories, et. al. - Represented company that allegedly sold defective go-kart in wrongful death product liability suits. Families of two decedents filed wrongful death suits after their decedents were killed in a go-kart accident on the same date in which the go-kart was purchased. Families demanded more than \$5 million and claimed aggravating circumstances. Obtained summary judgment on behalf of alleged seller prior to trial; judgment was affirmed on appeal.

Walpole vs. Cook - Obtained unanimous defense verdict in a wrongful death case against a 911 operator. The decedent called 911 to report that a carpenter checking a bare wire in his attic had collapsed and was unresponsive. The 911 operator asked the decedent to see if the carpenter was breathing. The decedent allegedly touched the carpenter or a "hot" electrical wire and both the decedent and the carpenter were found dead because of electrocution. Plaintiffs claimed that the 911 operator should have advised the decedent to turn off the electricity in the house immediately and/or not to touch the decedent.