



# DEBORAH O'CONNOR

## ATTORNEY

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DFO LAW, LLC: 420 NICHOLS RD. STE. 200, KANSAS CITY, MISSOURI 64112

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### PROFESSIONAL SUMMARY

Over 25 years of experience representing plaintiffs, employers, and insurance carriers in personal injury, commercial and professional liability litigation, insurance coverage, workers compensation and appeals in Missouri and Kansas.

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### SKILLS AND SPECIALTIES

- Personal Injury
  - Insurance Coverage
  - Workers Compensation
  - Professional liability
  - Jury trials
  - Appellate
  - Solo Law Practice Management
  - Civil Jury Instructions
  - Employment
  - Consumer Protection
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### PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

#### **Managing Member | DFO Law, LLC**

January 2023-current

- Results-oriented Managing Member able to advise and develop strategies that address legal and business risks and benefits.
- Represent clients in Missouri and Kansas courts in personal injury litigation.
- Negotiate numerous six-figure settlements in personal injury actions in Kansas and Missouri.
- Represent local and national employers, insurance carriers, and third-party administrators in all facets of workers' compensation cases in Missouri, Kansas, and Nebraska.
- Represent appellants and respondents in all aspects of appeals in the Missouri and Kansas state and federal courts.

#### **Shareholder | McCarthy O'Connor, P.C.**

March 2018- December 2022

- Represented clients in multiple jurisdictions including state and federal courts in personal injury litigation.
- Represented employers, insurance carriers and third-party administrators in all facets of workers' compensation cases in Missouri, Kansas and Nebraska.
- Obtained \$375,000 verdict for employee with co-counsel in wrongful termination discrimination trial in Jackson County, Missouri.
- Drafted and argued jury instructions for plaintiffs and defendants in multiple lawsuits to protect issues and appeals and ensure that verdicts in their favor will not be overturned on appeal.

**Partner | Wiedner & McAuliffe Ltd.**

June 2017-March 2018

- Represented clients in multiple jurisdictions including state and federal courts in personal injury litigation.
- Represented appellants and respondents in all aspects of appeals in the Missouri and Kansas state and federal courts
- Represented employers, insurance carriers and third-party administrators in all facets of workers' compensation cases in Missouri and Kansas

**Member 2017-2018, Associate 1998-2016 | Morrow Willnauer Klosterman Church, LLC**

June 1998-July 2017

- Represented commercial clients in consumer arbitrations in front of the American Arbitration Association.
- Drafted and argued over 30 sets of jury instructions in Missouri and Kansas in legal malpractice, commercial, and personal injury actions.
- Successfully argued and briefed 10-plus appeals in Missouri, Kansas, and Tenth Circuit Courts of Appeals.
- Successfully briefed and assisted in an argument on appeal to the Missouri Supreme Court involving the construction of the Federal Arbitration Act.
- Successfully briefed and argued numerous motions to stay proceedings and compel arbitration in Missouri.
- Represented multiple auto dealers in class actions, commercial disputes, and consumer claims.
- Represented attorneys in complex legal malpractice actions.
- Represented commercial defendants in wrongful foreclosure actions.
- Represented commercial defendants in personal injury and wrongful death actions.

**Associate | Morrison & Hecker**

January 1997- January 1998

- Represented commercial clients in general civil litigation cases in multiple areas of the law including commercial litigation and product liability.

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## EDUCATION

**J.D. with distinction: University of Missouri-Kansas City**

May 1997

Bench and Robe Honor Society; Order of Barristers; Law Review Staff

**B.A. Education (Spanish Minor): The University of Iowa**

December 1991

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## PUBLICATIONS & CLE PRESENTATIONS

- Instructor, Civil Jury Instructions Course UMKC School of Law 2018- Present
- CLE Presentation Kansas City Metropolitan Bar Association, Limited Scope Representation in Missouri and Kansas; June 2014
- Presentation to Kansas City Claims Association; Medicare Set-Asides in Liability Claims, May, 2013
- UMKC Law Review, 1995-1997 Author: "The Last Exposure Rule: What is the Law in Missouri after Johnson v. Denton Construction Co.?" 64 UMKC Law Review 813, 1996; 20 Workers' Compensation Law Review 269, 1998

## PROFESSIONAL ASSOCIATIONS

- Adjunct Professor University of Missouri School of Law, Spring, 2018-present
  - Kansas City Business Journal Super Lawyers Rising Stars 2008-2009
  - Litigation Counsel of America, Senior Fellow
  - Kansas City Metropolitan Bar Association
  - Association of Women Lawyers, Kansas City
  - Bar Admissions, Missouri, 1997, Kansas, 1998, Nebraska 2022
  - Kansas Women Attorneys Association (KWAA)
  - Johnson County Bar Association
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## LANGUAGES

- English
- Spanish (limited working)