

Firm Announces Opening of Kansas City, Missouri Office & Addition of Established Medical Marijuana Practice Group

With the opening of its first Missouri office in downtown Kansas City, Joseph, Hollander & Craft is realizing its vision to create a footprint from Wichita to Kansas City – with civil, criminal and family law practice groups in each location. The firm’s expansion includes the return of trial attorney Chris McHugh, who worked in the Wichita and Topeka offices from 2000 to 2009, and the addition of another seasoned litigator, Andrew (Drew) Goodwin.

“Since opening our Overland Park office in 2016, we’ve been waiting for the right opportunity to move across the state line,” said Managing Member Chris Joseph. “Chris McHugh and Drew Goodwin are tenacious advocates for clients in a variety of industries.”

“Chris and Drew have been representing businesses in Missouri’s burgeoning medical marijuana industry since 2018,” Chris Joseph continued. “With recent decisions and awarding of licenses on Missouri applications,



JH&C’s New Downtown Location
926 Cherry St., Kansas City, Missouri

our firm is ready to handle the surge of legal activity that will inevitably ensue. Additionally, if medical marijuana is legalized in Kansas, we will be able to leverage our experience in Missouri to support businesses going through the Kansas licensing process.”

Joining Chris McHugh and Drew Goodwin in the Kansas City office

is Christine Pina Rosengreen (family law) and Casey Meek (criminal defense). The firm now includes 21 attorneys in Kansas City, Lawrence, Overland Park, Topeka and Wichita.

Merger: Christine Pina Rosengreen Brings Kansas City Domestic Practice to JH&C

In February 2019, distinguished family law attorney Christine Pina Rosengreen joined Joseph, Hollander & Craft through a merger, bringing with her a well-established Kansas City metro practice concentrating on divorce, paternity, custody and support modification, guardianship, Guardian ad Litem, and adoptions.



Christine Pina Rosengreen

“We’ve been fortunate to attract top-notch talent from area firms as we are expanding all practice sectors,” said Julia Craft, chair of the firm’s family law division. “Christine has been a life-long advocate for children and families and is a Certified Family Law Mediator for the State of Missouri. She’s highly regarded among the Kansas City metro bar and is regularly invited to teach continuing legal education seminars on Guardian ad Litem practice and procedures. We’ve been extremely pleased to have her legal expertise as part of our team.”

“This merger has been an exceptionally good fit for my firm and my clients,” Christine added. “Joseph, Hollander & Craft is widely respected for its aggressive advocacy on behalf of its clients. That’s exactly what vulnerable children and families need as they navigate the court and foster care systems of Missouri and Kansas.”

Early in her career, Christine represented clients in criminal and family matters in Iowa. She returned to the Kansas City area to serve as Law Clerk to the Hon. Vernon E. Scoville, III, in the Jackson County Sixteenth Circuit Court of Missouri. She later worked as a staff attorney for Jackson County CASA.

Criminal Defense Team Celebrates Wins in Multiple District Courts

Joseph, Hollander & Craft’s criminal defense attorneys reveled in favorable results this year – celebrating alongside the clients they assisted in defeating untenable charges.

Outright dismissal is rare in criminal cases. But, in 2019, JH&C’s criminal defense team obtained not just one, but two, dismissals on the basis of self-defense immunity.



The first dismissal was obtained on behalf of a police officer charged with reckless battery in Sedgwick County after a fragment from a bullet he shot at a charging dog grazed a child

nearby. Jess Hoeme and Carrie Parker succeeded in convincing the district court the officer was immune from prosecution for actions he took in self-defense. Less than a week later, Jess obtained another order of immunity – this time for a detention officer charged with battery in Rice County.

Meanwhile, throughout the state of Kansas, Chris Joseph and Dionne Scherff obtained acquittals in four jury trials in four different counties: Clay, Lyon, Johnson and Wyandotte. Their clients were exonerated of a wide variety of charges, including: aggravated arson, rape, aggravated indecent liberties, aggravated indecent solicitation, disorderly conduct, and obstruction of an investigation.

No matter the jurisdiction or crime alleged, the result was the same: vindication for clients.

The firm proudly welcomes back Chris McHugh, an aggressive litigator who served the firm’s clients for nearly a decade at the outset of his career. Chris has defended individuals in high-stakes litigation across Kansas and Missouri, with strong emphasis in the construction and transportation industries.



Chris McHugh

Before returning to JH&C, Chris was a partner at Seigfreid Bingham, PC, where he served as team leader for the firm’s civil and criminal departments – overseeing all trials and administrative appeals. While there, Chris also identified an opportunity in Missouri’s up-and-coming medical marijuana industry and founded a medical marijuana practice group.

“Missouri recently issued more than 300 licenses for cultivation, manufacturing, and dispensaries,” Chris says. “Drew and I represent some of the state’s biggest names in the medical marijuana industry and have been actively involved with them as they’ve gone through the licensing process. We are fully prepared for future issues that may arise, whether they involve administrative panels or courtroom litigation.”

A graduate of Wichita State University, Chris earned a bachelor’s degree in marketing before receiving his juris doctorate at the University of Kansas. He is licensed to practice in the state and municipal courts of Kansas and Missouri; U.S. District Courts (District of Kansas and Western District of Missouri); U.S. Court of Appeals (Eighth and Tenth Circuits); and the U.S. Supreme Court.

Andrew (Drew) Goodwin is a senior litigator whose practice serves individuals and businesses in the transportation, financial, utility and manufacturing industries. Drew also provides general business counsel on risk management and insurance coverage.

A significant portion of Drew’s practice is dedicated to medical marijuana law, guiding clients through the complex federal, state and local regulatory issues and licensing process.



Drew Goodwin

Drew is licensed to practice in all state and municipal courts of Kansas and Missouri, as well as in U.S. District Courts (Western District of Missouri, District of Kansas and Central District of Illinois).

Drew received his bachelor’s degree in finance from the University of Missouri – Kansas City, and his juris doctorate *cum laude* from UMKC’s School of Law. He is a member of MoCannTrade and the National Cannabis Industry Association. He also serves on the Board of After Action Network, a veterans’ non-profit organization.

KANSAS JUDICIAL COUNCIL APPOINTMENTS

Joseph and Scherff Named to Advisory Committees

The Chief Justice of the Kansas Supreme Court appointed two firm members to serve on the bi-partisan Kansas Judicial Council – a group of attorneys, judges and legislators who improve the state’s justice system by reviewing judicial processes and recommending appropriate changes. Managing Member Chris Joseph was appointed to a four-year term on the Council’s Criminal Law Advisory Committee, and Dionne Scherff was appointed to serve on the Advisory Committee on Sex Offenses and Registration, which is commissioned to convene throughout 2020.

The Criminal Law Advisory Committee monitors the Kansas Criminal Code and the Kansas Code of Criminal Procedure and reviews proposed changes to Kansas law as requested by the Legislature. The Committee is currently reviewing laws on human trafficking and evaluating reforms that aim to help victims of trafficking.

The Sex Offenses and Registration Advisory Committee is reviewing sex offenses as they relate to adults and juveniles, as well as offender registration relating to individuals convicted of drug, violent and sex offenses. The Committee is drafting proposed changes in the law to be submitted to the Kansas Legislature.

Best Law Firms Bestows Five Tier 1 Rankings

U.S. News & World Report and Best Lawyers in America® honored the firm’s Wichita and Topeka offices with five 2020 Best Law Firms Tier 1 rankings:

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|--|--|---|
| Employment Law
Management (Wichita) | Labor Law
Management (Wichita) | Litigation
Labor & Employment (Wichita) |
| Criminal Defense
General Practice (Topeka) | Criminal Defense
White-Collar (Topeka) | |



BELLQUIST ELECTED MEMBER OF FIRM

Joseph, Hollander & Craft proudly elected Diane Bellquist as a Member of the firm this year. Diane, who joined the firm in 2014, practices primarily in the areas of professional licensure and professional liability defense.



Diane Bellquist

“When Diane joined us, she brought with her more than 10 years of experience as the former Assistant General Counsel for the Kansas Board of Healing Arts and former General Counsel to the Office of the State Bank Commissioner,” said Senior Member Ross Hollander. “Her first-hand knowledge of the regulatory system helped us build a statewide professional liability defense practice. Through Diane’s leadership, we’ve expanded our scope to include medical malpractice defense. We’re extremely proud of her contributions to this firm and its clients.”

Diane is past-president of the Topeka Bar Association and has served on its board of directors since 2011. She was honored as the TBA’s Outstanding Young Lawyer in 2012 and is a past president of the TBA’s Young Lawyers’ Division. Diane is also a past president and member of the Women Attorneys Association of Topeka.

Growth Brings New Associates in Civil and Family Law Areas

“An explosive growth year for the firm has resulted in the addition of two new associates in the Topeka and Lawrence offices,” says Managing Member Chris Joseph. “We’ve been fortunate to attract talent to elevate our capabilities in legal research and increase our capacity to handle criminal, civil, commercial and family law matters in our northern offices.”



Jeanne Sourgens

Jeanne Sourgens is a highly skilled legal researcher and analyst who began her career as a law clerk to the Honorable Ivan L. R. Lemelle of the U.S. District Court for the Eastern District of Louisiana. After her clerkship, Jeanne joined a large

international law firm in Houston where she worked on civil trials and appeals. In 2007, she moved to another international law firm where she practiced commercial litigation. Her practice included civil trials, arbitration, and appeals involving contract disputes, antitrust, torts, legal malpractice, and lawyer discipline.

Most recently, Jeanne served as research attorney to the Honorable Marla J. Luckert of the Kansas Supreme Court. She is a graduate of Tulane University Law School and licensed to practice in Kansas and the District of Columbia.

Samantha Wagner is working with clients in the Topeka and Lawrence offices handling divorce, child custody, child support, spousal maintenance,

and paternity matters. Samantha is one of KU Law School’s first LEAD (3+3 BA+JD) graduates, earning her bachelor’s degree in American Studies and Religious Studies in 2016, and her juris doctor in 2018.



Samantha Wagner

After graduation from law school, Samantha worked as a legal intern for KU’s Project for Innocence. She also worked with the Tribal Judicial Support Clinic assisting the Prairie Band Potawatomi Nation.

Samantha is licensed to practice before the Kansas Supreme Court and all Kansas state and municipal courts.

Firm Embraces Three New Non-Profit Causes

Joseph, Hollander & Craft regularly lends its support to numerous non-profit causes; this year the firm partnered with three new organizations: Jackson County CASA, Midwest Innocence Project, and ACLU of Kansas.

Attorney Christine Pina Rosengreen spearheaded the firm’s role as an Advocate Sponsor for “Cocktails for CASA – A Night of Hope” fundraiser for Jackson County CASA. “We were proud to be a sponsor of this inaugural event and thrilled to have helped them reach their fundraising goal of more than \$30,000,” Christine said.



Through law school partnerships with the University of Kansas, the University of Missouri-Kansas City, and the University of Missouri-Columbia, the Midwest Innocence Project teaches the next generation of lawyers and investigators how to prevent injustice in the legal system. JH&C is honored to be part of these efforts.



JH&C had the privilege of serving as an Advocate Sponsor of the ACLU of Kansas Free State Forum. Nearly 200 Kansans attended panels covering voting rights, bipartisan criminal justice reform to address prison overcrowding, and immigration reform.



CHRIS JOSEPH AND ROSS HOLLANDER NAMED “LAWYERS OF THE YEAR” BY BEST LAWYERS

Each year, Joseph, Hollander & Craft is proud to have its attorneys ranked among the best of the best by respected entities like Best Lawyers in America®, Super Lawyers®, and Chambers USA.

This year, Best Lawyers 2020 honored Chris Joseph and Ross Hollander with “Lawyer of the Year” designations for their respective practice areas and metro regions. In each market, only one lawyer per practice area is so honored.

The Missouri & Kansas Super Lawyers also gave accolades to five of our attorneys and singled out Carrie Parker as a “Rising Star” for the second consecutive year.

Super Lawyers

Ross Hollander

Chris Joseph

Kris Lawless

Dionne Scherff

Carrie Parker

2019 Rising Star



Ross Hollander
Labor & Employment Law

Best Lawyers®

Ross Hollander
Wichita Lawyer of the Year
Employment Law Management

Also recognized in
Labor Law - Management
Litigation - Labor & Employment

Chris Joseph
Topeka Lawyer of the Year
Criminal Defense – General Practice

Also recognized in
Criminal Defense: General Practice

Jess Hoeme
Criminal Defense – General Practice
DUI/DWI Defense

Kris Lawless
Criminal Defense – General Practice
Criminal Defense – White Collar

Casey Meek
Criminal Defense – General Practice



Jess Hoeme



Ross Hollander



Chris Joseph



Kris Lawless



Casey Meek



Carrie Parker



Dionne Scherff