

### Back to Court— Back to Winning

#### CRIMINAL DEFENSE TEAM SHINES AS TRIALS RESUME

The jury trial drought of 2020 and 2021 was followed by a steady stream of jury trials in 2022. As jury trials returned, so did Joseph, Hollander & Craft's characteristic courtroom prowess. JHC's criminal defense attorneys tried six cases to a jury in 2022—and earned full acquittals in all of them.



DUSTIN CURRY

Dustin Curry led the group in trial victories, ending the year with a 3-0 record. Proving that the trial skills he perfected as a prosecutor are equally effective on the defense side, Curry obtained not guilty verdicts in cases where he combatted charges

for criminal threat and DUI.

Chris Joseph and Dionne Scherff, who are undefeated in cases tried together, continued their winning streak into 2022. This year, they vindicated a Douglas County defendant accused of rape and a Shawnee County defendant facing multiple off-grid charges. Known



DIONNE SCHERFF

around the firm as the "Dream Team," Joseph and Scherff have developed a courtroom dynamic that is a force to be reckoned with.



CHRIS JOSEPH

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KEITH EDWARDS

JHC's criminal defense lawyers have always been steadfast protectors of the right to trial by a jury of one's peers. This year's trial results reinforced the critical difference having such an opportunity makes.



CARRIE PARKER

So did an appellate victory secured by Carrie Parker. Parker's client had twice prepared his case for trial and was twice thwarted by the State's last-minute dismissal of the charge. The second time, the court entered the dismissal with prejudice—prohibiting any further attempts at prosecution. The State appealed, but Parker successfully defended the order and her client's right to have his guilt or innocence timely determined.

When the Covid-19 pandemic halted jury trials, many wondered when—or whether—the backlog of criminal cases would finally clear. The growing number of unresolved cases made headlines as defendants waited *and waited* for their day in court. After multiple years filled with reports of justice delayed, JHC is pleased to report on justice delivered.

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### Personal Injury Team Wins Multiple Seven-Figure Policy-Limit Recoveries for Clients in 2022

Joseph, Hollander & Craft's personal injury team continued its track record of success by recovering millions of dollars for clients in 2022, including two seven-figure results for Kansas City families that lost loved ones in structure fires. In the last two years, JHC's Drew Goodwin and Matt Johnston have tallied three separate seven-figure recoveries for the victims of house and apartment fires. They have two additional fire cases scheduled for trial in 2023.



DREW GOODWIN

"Every fire death or injury is tragic, especially when it could have been avoided by safety measures on the part of a landlord, property manager, product manufacturer, utility company, or electrician," said Goodwin, who leads the firm's personal injury and wrongful death litigation practice group.

"The families we represent that have lost loved ones in structure fires have suffered immeasurably," added Johnston. "In several of our fire cases, we have found that cost-saving shortcuts were ultimately

to blame. By raising awareness and holding the at-fault parties accountable, we're hopeful that we can play a part in creating safer living environments for tenants in Kansas and Missouri."

Goodwin and Johnston further emphasized how unique each fire case is and the importance of exercising due diligence and care when investigating the source and cause of the fire. Indeed, their recent successes demonstrate that attention to detail, timeliness, and mastery of the complex framework of fire and electrical codes are instrumental in building a winning fire case.



MATT JOHNSTON

With extensive experience litigating matters involving fire deaths, traumatic brain injuries, and commercial motor vehicle accidents, Goodwin and Johnston are quickly establishing themselves as the go-to advocates for individuals who have been seriously injured or lost family members due to the negligence of others in Kansas and Missouri.

### Family Law Team Grows by Four

Joseph, Hollander & Craft's family law practice grew again in 2022, with the addition of three seasoned practitioners and one new graduate.

Taryn Folston joined the Wichita family law team in June. Bringing with her over nine years of experience in family law, criminal defense, and personal injury representation, Folston is a tested trial lawyer with an unflappable courtroom presence. A natural advocate with a knack for strategic thinking, Folston hit the ground running with our Wichita domestic group.



TARYN FOLSTON

The next month, rising star Rachel Whitsitt set up shop in JHC's Overland Park office—expanding the firm's growing family law practice across the greater Kansas City metro area. Whitsitt brings to the firm over 10 years of experience litigating domestic actions in Johnson County, Leavenworth County,



RACHEL WHITSITT

and Wyandotte County. She skillfully navigates high-asset divorce cases and adeptly assists clients facing complex child custody and child support situations.

In August, former Jackson County, Kan. District Attorney Shawna Miller joined our Topeka family law team. The extensive trial experience Miller gained as a prosecutor enables her to navigate intense circumstances with ease. Her experience assisting clients in divorce, custody, support, and paternity matters dates back to 2005, when she opened Miller Law Office to serve clients in and around her hometown of Holton, Kan.



SHAWNA MILLER



RACHEL HIGHSMITH

Finally, in September, former summer associate Rachel Highsmith returned to the firm as a full-time attorney. Highsmith graduated from the University of Kansas School of Law in May, sat for the Kansas bar exam in July, and was sworn in as a barrister on September 20, 2022. Highsmith offices in Overland Park, where she works closely with Whitsitt.

### Scherff to Help Rewrite Local Criminal Rules for District of Kansas

Veteran federal criminal defense attorney Dionne Scherff has been asked to serve on a committee dedicated to revising the local rules applicable to criminal cases in the District of Kansas.

Chaired by Magistrate Judge Angel Mitchell, the committee is comprised of federal judges, a prosecutor from the U.S. Attorney's Office, an attorney from the Federal Public Defender's Office, and four private federal criminal defense lawyers from across the district. "I'm honored by the invitation to represent the criminal defense bar and thankful

for the opportunity to improve the way justice is administered in Kansas federal courts," Scherff said.

If you were thinking the local rules had just been amended, you'd be correct. Revisions focused on general matters and civil practice became effective December 1, 2022. However, none of the 2022 revisions addressed the 23 rules unique to criminal practice. This new committee will pick up where the last revisions left off. Anyone with input or suggestions on the local rules applicable to criminal cases in the District of Kansas can contact Scherff at dscherff@josephhollander.com.

## Kindling and Bellquist Launch Health Law Ed Initiative

JHC's Anne Kindling and Diane Bellquist recently began a webinar series to help healthcare professionals more competently and efficiently navigate the increasingly complex web of healthcare compliance regulations. Dubbed "Health Law Hacks: Cracking the Code of Healthcare Compliance," the webinars quickly and conveniently update busy medical professionals on recent legal developments related to healthcare compliance.



ANNE KINDLING



DIANE BELLQUIST

Kindling and Bellquist launched the Health Law Hacks series in partnership with fellow attorney Richelle Marting, of Marting Law. In addition to holding a juris doctorate, Marting is a registered health information administrator and certified coder who focuses her practice on healthcare coding, billing, and

reimbursement issues. Kindling has devoted her entire legal career to health and hospital law—including 10 years managing claims and risk management for a 500-bed hospital and multi-specialty clinic. Bellquist dedicates her practice to providing licensure defense services for professionals and entities, with a significant portion of her practice focused on licensed medical practitioners and organizations.

With decades of collective experience handling legal matters related to healthcare administration, Kindling, Bellquist, and Marting are three of the foremost attorneys practicing healthcare law in Kansas and Missouri. To learn more or sign up for notifications about future webinars, visit [josephhollander.com/healthlawed](http://josephhollander.com/healthlawed).

## JHC Earns 13th-Straight Best Law Firms® Ranking, 14 Individual Awards

2022 proved to be another decorated year for Joseph, Hollander & Craft, as the firm and a majority of its attorneys collected a number of the legal industry's most prestigious honors—each the result of a rigorous peer and client review process.



## CLE Programs Draw Over 2500 Attendees in 2022

As regular defenders of attorneys and judges confronting ethics and malpractice issues, Joseph, Hollander & Craft's legal ethics and malpractice group was delighted when KU Law professor Mike Hoeflich asked to join forces in offering interesting and accessible legal ethics and malpractice resources to attorneys and judges throughout the region. The practice group, which includes Diane Bellquist, Christopher Joseph, Christopher McHugh, and Carrie Parker, continues to be amazed at just how far this educational endeavor has been able to reach.

JHC's free, quarterly continuing legal education seminars covering ethics and malpractice law are consistently approved for CLE credit in Kansas and Missouri, and they routinely draw hundreds of participants per session. This year, CLEs sponsored by JHC drew over 2,500 attendees—the most since JHC began offering the program and a 20% increase from the previous year.

This year's CLE topics included Defensive Lawyering; Ethics in Hiring; The Lawyer as Interviewer; Representing Sanctioned Clients; and The Impact of the 1918 Flu Pandemic on the Practice of Law (a collaboration with the Tenth Circuit Historical Society). The programs featured 10 different presenters, including JHC's Chris Joseph and Diane Bellquist; the Hon. James P. O'Hara; the Hon. Eric Melgren; retired U.S. Army Lt. Col. Eric McMillin; Dr. Michael Hoeflich of KU Law; Dr. Freddy Sourgens of Washburn Law; attorney Nick Badgerow; attorney Alleen VanBebber; and attorney James Oliver.

For information about future CLE programs, including a form to subscribe to the email list, visit [josephhollander.com/ethics](http://josephhollander.com/ethics).



## Goodwin Profile Rises amid Cannabis Amendment Buzz

Missouri made a big splash in 2022 with the passage of Amendment 3, which legalized recreational marijuana and addressed related issues such as cannabis business licensing, employment actions based on marijuana use, and criminal justice reforms. As buzz over the proposed amendment grew, news outlets throughout the region sought perspective from experienced Missouri cannabis law practitioners and others knowledgeable about how Amendment 3 would affect the Missouri cannabis industry.

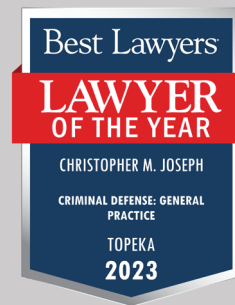
Reporters surely felt like they hit the jackpot upon finding JHC's Drew Goodwin, who not only practices and teaches cannabis law, but also opened a business within the complex cannabis regulatory framework. Goodwin, who is an adjunct professor of cannabis law at UMKC and part owner of a Missouri cannabis business, helps his cannabis business clients navigate licensing issues and provides ongoing general counsel and litigation services to cannabis entities.

Goodwin appeared on five news programs and was quoted in dozens of articles on the topic. While criminal justice provisions like expungement garnered the most attention, Goodwin also highlighted provisions relevant to current and aspiring cannabis business owners. In an interview with KMBC News 9, Goodwin noted: "Within this initiative, there are equity provisions [ . . . ] Micro-business licenses are going to be issued exclusively to disadvantaged communities. When licenses for larger businesses become available, half of them are going to be given to disadvantaged communities. The department of health is going to have a chief equity officer." He went on to discuss ways in which the amendment would affect people who live or work in Kansas. Read more, or watch the interview, at our blog.

## JHC & Friends (Finally) Celebrate Co-founder Hollander's Retirement



After the Covid-19 pandemic thwarted the firm's attempts to properly celebrate founding member Ross Hollander's retirement last year, JHC was finally able to honor him with an in-person celebration on October 6th of this year. Dozens of Hollander's family members, friends, former coworkers, and law colleagues attended his open house style retirement party, which was held at Larkspur Bistro and Bar in Wichita. Over 45 years of practice, Hollander distinguished himself as one of the Midwest's foremost labor and employment attorneys. In 2001, he and Steve Joseph cofounded Joseph & Hollander P.A., now Joseph, Hollander & Craft LLC.



### BEST LAWYERS®

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**Julia Craft**  
Family Law

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**Jess Hoeme**  
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### ONES TO WATCH®

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