

William E. Hanna

SENIOR COUNSEL

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Direct: 816.691.2412

Office: Kansas City



For over 30 years clients have put their faith and trust in William, relying upon his extensive litigation experience and knowing that he will handle their cases with the utmost professionalism.

Insurers, financial institutions, and telecommunications companies value William's skills as a litigator. William's practice includes ERISA and non-ERISA litigation in the life, health and disability fields. He has practiced in courts across the nation in a wide variety of complex class action and business litigation matters.

William has developed an extensive pro bono immigration practice, representing refugees, asylum seekers and other clients seeking green cards (permanent legal resident) or United States citizenship.

EXPERIENCE

He has won summary judgments for numerous defendants in ERISA and non-ERISA life and disability cases.

William obtained a favorable judgment for a defendant in a multi-day arbitration hearing before a three-member AAA arbitration panel. Plaintiff sought damages in excess of \$3 million as well as punitive damages, statutory penalties and attorneys' fees.

PRACTICES & INDUSTRIES

Business Litigation
Class Action
Product Liability
Insurance Class Action & Litigation

ADMISSIONS

Missouri, 1989
Kansas, 1990
Kansas Supreme Court
U.S. District Court for the Western and Eastern Districts of Missouri
U.S. District Court for the District of Kansas
U.S. Court of Appeals for the Eighth and Tenth Circuits
U.S. Supreme Court

EDUCATION

Baylor University, J.D., 1989
• Order of Barristers

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William has successfully handled numerous life insurance disputes in both state and federal courts in Kansas and Missouri. Most recently, he obtained summary judgment on behalf of an insurer against a claim for life insurance benefits after the insured failed to report his cancer diagnosis shortly before obtaining supplemental life insurance. Earlier this year, the Eighth Circuit Court of Appeals ruled in favor of an insurer represented by William in a case involving a "crime exclusion" in a life insurance policy.

In a case involving catastrophic damage to hundreds of property owners from an oil refinery flood and spill, William successfully defeated class certification.

Obtained defense verdicts in jury trials in both state and federal courts in Missouri and Kansas.

RECOGNITIONS

Selected to the 2024 edition of *Best Lawyers in America*©

Named to *Ingram's* 2023 Class of 50 Kansans You Should Know

Named "Best of the Bar" by the *Kansas City Business Journal*

Rated "AV" by *Martindale Hubbell*

PROFESSIONAL & CIVIC ACTIVITIES

Defense Research Institute, Life, Health and Disability Committee

National Institute of Trial Advocacy

University of Missouri Trial Institute

Ross T. Roberts Inns of Court Program

The Missouri Bar Association

- Runner-up, Outstanding Advocate, Moot Court Competition

University of Kansas, B.A., *with honors* and *highest distinction*, 1986

- Omicron Delta Kappa
- Owl Society

Harvard University, 1985 Summer School

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Kansas Bar Association

NEWS

175 Stinson Attorneys Selected to the 2024 *Best Lawyers in America* List

08.17.2023

William Hanna Selected to *Ingram's* 2023 Class of 50 Kansans You Should Know

04.06.2023

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