



## Taylor L. Connolly

### Principal

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Taylor L. Connolly is a principal with Brown & James, P.C., practicing in the firm's Kansas City office. Taylor practices in the areas of business and commercial litigation, construction law, insurance law, premises and retail liability, as well as product liability. In addition to representing and defending clients through all facets of complex civil litigation, Taylor is often called upon to represent clients against multi-party claims asserted pre-suit, and he has successfully resolved many of such claims in both Kansas and Missouri without the need for prolonged litigation.

Further, since 2018, Taylor has been recognized as a "Rising Star" by *Super Lawyers* – a rating service recognizing lawyers who have attained a high degree of peer recognition and professional achievement. Taylor has obtained multiple judgments in his clients' favor through dispositive motion practice, ranging from successfully opposing class action claims to obtaining summary judgment in a personal injury action in which the alleged damages exceeded \$900,000.

Taylor is routinely called upon to speak on such topics ranging from insurance litigation and effective claim handling practices to construction contracting. Additionally, Taylor volunteers his time in the Kansas City community in such organizations as the Greater Kansas City Claims Association, where Taylor served as a member of the Board of Directors from 2018-2021, and he is an active member of his parish at Holy Spirit Catholic Church.

### Representative Matters

- Obtained dismissal of lawsuit on grounds of res judicata and want of personal jurisdiction, defended dismissal on appeal, and ultimately obtained a Judgment from the 10th Circuit Court of Appeals affirming the trial court's dismissal of action. *Jehan Zeb Mir v. Jay Brown, et al.*, 2021 WL 2099548 (10th Cir., May 25, 2021).
- Argued before the Missouri Court of Appeals for the Western District of Missouri and obtained Judgment affirming trial court's summary judgment entered in favor of client in malicious prosecution and abuse of process action. *Paul Vescovo v. Chad Gardner, et al.*, 2020 WL 7702210 (Mo. App. W.D. 2020).
- Obtained dismissal of action after obtaining Order excluding three of plaintiffs' liability experts from testifying

at trial, and obtained award of costs in favor of client in property damage dispute in which plaintiffs sought approx. \$130,000 in damages. Kirk Knabe, et al. v. Amazing Siding, et al., 16LF-CV00086 (Circ. Ct. Lafayette County, Mo., 2018).

- Obtained summary judgment in action claiming FCRA violations on behalf of prospective statewide class. John Thornburg, individually and behalf of all others, v. Jesse James Auto Center, Inc., 17CY-CV02951 (Circ. Ct. Clay County, Mo., 2018).
- Obtained summary judgment on behalf of client in personal injury action in which plaintiff sought more than \$900,000 in damages. Miller v. NEP Group, Inc. et al., 2017 WL 2151843 (D. Kan. 2017).

## Languages

Spanish

## Community Activities

Knights of Columbus

Catholic Lawyers Guild of Kansas City

## Practice Areas

Business and Commercial

Litigation

Construction Law

Insurance Law

Premises and Retail Liability

Product Liability

## More About Taylor

### Education & Bar Admissions

#### Education

- William & Mary Law School (J.D., cum laude, 2014)
- Kansas State University (B.A., Criminology, Spanish, summa cum laude, 2011)

#### Bar Admissions

- Kansas
- Missouri
- U.S. District Court for the District of Kansas
- U.S. District Court for the Western District of Missouri
- Tenth Circuit Court of Appeals
- Eighth Circuit Court of Appeals

## Recent Achievements

- Rising Stars - Business Litigation, Missouri & Kansas Super Lawyers (2018-2021)

## Professional Affiliations

- Kansas City Metropolitan Bar Association
- Greater Kansas City Claims Association, Board of Directors (2018-2021)
- Defense Research Institute

## Publications

- Author, "An End to the 'Border War' in Kansas-Missouri Injury Suits?" Expert Analysis, Law360 (July 3, 2019)
- Surety Bonding in the Construction Setting, Chapter 10 in PETER A. ALCES, THE LAW OF SURETYSHIP AND GUARANTY (West 2014)
- Fraudulent Claims by the Insured in Insurance Contracts, Chapter 2B in PETER A. ALCES, LAW OF FRAUDULENT TRANSACTIONS (West 2012)

## Speaking

- Presenter, "Missouri and Kansas Claim-Handling Practices: the Dos and Don'ts with Fire Loss Claims in Both the Show-Me and Sunflower States," The Institute of Fire Science, January 2022
- Presenter, "Case Law Update: Missouri, Kansas and Illinois," Brown & James General Defense & Insurance Law Symposium, January 2022
- Presenter, "Keeping the 'Good Faith': An Overview of Claims Handling and an Update on Trends Both in Missouri and Kansas," Greater Kansas City Claims Association (2021)
- Presenter, "Kansas Case Law Update," Brown & James Insurance Law & General Defense Symposium, January 2021
- Presenter, "Insurance Bad Faith: Plaintiff and Defense Perspectives," National Business Institute presentation (2020)
- Presenter, "Don't Balk: Handling Multi-Party Claims in Kansas and Missouri," Brown & James Kansas City Client Seminar (2019)
- Presenter, "I Try to Get Out, but They Keep Pulling Me Back In – Effectively Closing the Book (the First Time) via Settlement in Missouri and Kansas," Brown & James General Defense & Insurance Law Symposium (2019)
- Presenter, "Ethics in Claim Handling: 1st Party and 3rd Party Claim Handling 'Do's' and 'Don'ts,'" Greater Kansas City Claims Association, MO/KS/WY CE approved presentation (2018)
- Presenter, "2017-2018 Legal Update: Trends in the Law and their Impacts on Claims," Greater Kansas City Claims Association, MO/WY CE approved presentation (2018)
- Panelist, Case Evaluation Roundtable: "Dissecting The Claim – Reality Depends on Where You Are," Brown & James General Defense & Insurance Law Symposium (2018)
- Presenter, "Stick to the Script: Avoiding the Ever-Expanding Avenues of Liability in the Wake of Over-Selling Design Options," Construction Specifications Institute, Kansas City Chapter, 18th Annual Product Expo Continuing Education Presentation, AIA/CES approved presentation (2016)
- Presenter, "Navigating the Outer-limits of Indemnity: Expecting the Unexpected in Standard Form Agreements," Construction Specifications Institute, Kansas City Chapter, 18th Annual Product Expo Continuing Education Presentation, AIA/CES approved presentation (2016)
- Panelist, "The Red and Black of Green Buildings," Construction Specifications Institute, Kansas City Chapter (2014)