HUSCH BLACKWELL



Jordan T. Ault

OFFICE MANAGING PARTNER

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OVERVIEW

Jordan is a zealous advocate who works tirelessly toward trial readiness while looking for nuances and openings that might resolve issues outside the courtroom.

From the beginning of his career, Jordan has frequently provided pro bono services and volunteered his time on the boards of various nonprofit organizations. He soon realized that these organizations had just as many legal needs as traditional for-profit companies, yet there were important differences in their operations and mission-driven structure. He knew they could benefit from Husch Blackwell's industry-first approach, so he helped launch the firm's Nonprofit Organizations & Religious Institutions team.

Jordan works with churches, synagogues, mosques, denominational entities, faith-based schools and healthcare providers, neighborhood and community groups, and other nonprofit organizations of all sizes. He often provides daily guidance on a range of legal and strategic questions, while also overseeing a wider team of attorneys that provide a one-stop shop for a variety of legal needs, including real estate, employment, tax, corporate and other matters. Jordan serves as Chancellor of the Missouri Conference of the United Methodist Church, a legal advisor to both the episcopacy and over 500 churches across the state.

Jordan also represents nonprofit and religious clients in litigation, including employment matters, personal injury and abuse claims, contract disputes, and probate matters. He specializes in complex First Amendment matters involving religious freedom, property

Industry

Manufacturing

Services

Asbestos Litigation

Labor & Employment

Litigation & Alternative Dispute Resolution

Nonprofit Organizations & Religious Institutions

Product Liability

Tax

Toxic Tort

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ownership and the intersection of civil and ecclesiastical law, including litigating and resolving several lawsuits involving disaffiliation from a denomination.

Having served as a church trustee, musician and pastor's spouse, Jordan understands the complexity of churches. He knows each church has its own internal politics, with members naturally feeling a sense of personal ownership and emotional investment. Jordan sees his work as a unique ministry and desires to help organizations move forward with their missions. He's known for his ability to think creatively and reach solutions that allow parties to resolve disputes amicably, while aggressively protecting clients' missions.

In addition to his nonprofit work, Jordan has spent more than a decade litigating product liability and toxic tort cases for many of the world's leading manufacturers of specialty chemicals, petrochemicals, automotive parts, and industrial and consumer products. He has defended mesothelioma and lung cancer cases in dozens of jurisdictions across the country and achieved successful results at mediation and in the courtroom. Jordan is skilled at mastering the technical intricacies of cases and creating trial themes that synthesize complex corporate histories, allowing clients to craft the best solutions for their business needs. He approaches this litigation with the same goal as for nonprofit clients: helping the client move forward.

Jordan serves as Office Managing Partner for the firm's Jefferson City office.

Case Study

Missouri Annual Conference of the United Methodist Church

Our team helped reinvigorate the oldest United Methodist church in Kansas City through a unique transfer of assets.

Featured Experience

Careful Questioning Exposes 'Expert' in Malpractice Trial

A client, an anesthesiologist, faced charges of medical malpractice and wrongful death. The plaintiff hired an expert who had testified in hundreds of cases. Jordan reviewed thousands of pages of deposition and trial testimony from those cases and found prior testimony in which the expert contradicted his opinion in the pending litigation. At trial, the expert stated that his prior testimony "made no medical sense" and that the source was "misinformed" – before learning that the opinion he was critiquing was his own.

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Experience

- Helped faith leaders and congregations incorporate a nonprofit, Transformational Housing, to rebuild affordable housing after a disastrous tornado. Read more here.
- Won $1.65 million settlement on behalf of developer in Leon County, Florida, in suit alleging breach of contract and fraudulent misrepresentation.
- Obtained dismissal of federal lawsuit involving allegations that law firm's advertisements violated the Lanham Act and various federal and state rules of professional conduct.
- Served on trial teams for toxic tort litigation in Illinois, Missouri, Texas, Massachusetts and Pennsylvania.
- Obtained dismissal of copyright infringement action against Fortune 500 energy company pending in U.S. District Court, Eastern District of Missouri.
- Briefed and argued eDiscovery dispute in the Superior Court of the State of Delaware, New Castle County, saving client more than $1 million in discovery costs.
- Represented two plaintiffs in separate fraud cases; between the two matters, secured and collected more than $2 million in settlement payments.
- Won class action status for lawsuit against the Missouri Department of Corrections on behalf of inmates sentenced to life imprisonment as juveniles. Suit alleged that department ignored due diligence for inmates.

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Recognition

- Association of Corporate Counsel, Value Champion, 2018
- American Society of Legal Advocates, Top 40 Under 40 in Litigation in Missouri, 2012-2014
- The Missouri Bar, Pro Bono Publico Award, 2019
- The Missouri Bar, Pro Bono Wall of Fame, 2011, 2012, 2015, 2017, 2018
- *Missouri Lawyers Weekly,* Up & Coming Law Firm Leader, 2017
- Missouri & Kansas Super Lawyers, Nonprofit Organizations, Rising Star, 2019-2022
- Missouri & Kansas Super Lawyers, Personal Injury - Products: Defense, Rising Star, 2018

Education

- J.D., University of Illinois College of Law
    - *summa cum laude*
    - Order of the Coif
    - Bell, Boyd and Lloyd Best Advocate Award
    - Five CALI Excellence for the Future Awards
    - Rickert Award for Excellence in Academic Achievement
    - *University of Illinois Law Review*, Notes Editor
- B.A., Illinois Wesleyan University
    - Political Science
    - *summa cum laude*

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Admissions

- Missouri
- Illinois
- U.S. District Court, Southern District of Illinois
- U.S. District Court, Eastern District of Michigan
- U.S. District Court, Eastern District of Missouri
- U.S. District Court, Western District of Missouri

Community Leadership

- Mid-Missouri Legal Services (MMLS), Board of Directors
- Missouri Appleseed, Board of Directors
- Common Ground Community Building, Board of Directors, 2017-2023; President, 2019-2021
- Jefferson City Public Schools Foundation, Board of Directors, 2022-present; Vice President of Administration
- United Methodist Church Conference Chancellors Association, 2019-present; Executive Committee; President, 2024-2025
- Grace Hill Settlement House; Board of Directors, 2012-2017; Vice Chair, 2016-2017
- New Leaders Council - St. Louis, 2017 Fellow
- Wespath Benefits and Investments, Young Leaders Advisory Board, 2017-2020
- Young Friends of Legal Services of Eastern Missouri, Board of Directors, 2010-2014
- Kirkwood United Methodist Church, Board of Trustees, 2009-2011

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FT Innovat Alliance Nomination

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