HUSCH BLACKWELL

Kyle B. Russell

PARTNER

KANSAS CITY, MO
PHONE: 816.983.8135
EMAIL: KYLE.RUSSELL@HUSCHBLACKWELL.COM

OVERVIEW

Kyle helps clients solve labor and employment problems: whether that's defending them in litigation, resolving conflicts outside of court, or simply preventing disputes in the first place.

After more than two decades of experience, Kyle has seen just about every type of employment litigation. He has routinely handled cases involving the Fair Labor Standards Act (FLSA) and other alleged wage and hour violations, the Family & Medical Leave Act (FMLA), the Fair Credit Reporting Act (FCRA), restrictive covenants, disability accommodations, and discrimination, harassment, and retaliation claims, and he works with clients in a wide array of industries.

While Kyle is an experienced litigator, he's especially passionate about preventative counsel and employment law training. He's seen enough litigation to know that it's not usually in the best interests of either party, and he aims to help clients avoid it where possible. Kyle partners with clients to help them implement the policies and procedures that will prevent allegations of wrongdoing, and he frequently offers training to internal teams, managers, and front-line employees. Kyle believes that employment law training is a deeply worthwhile investment that every organization should make. He is also a frequent speaker at Society of Human Resources Management (SHRM) events.

Kyle sees the law as simply problem solving and knows that good lawyers are good problem solvers. He chose to pursue a career in litigation not because he enjoys conflict but because he enjoys

Industry

Education

Services

Collegiate Athletics
Employment Class & Collective Actions
Employment Litigation Defense
Higher Education
HR Consultation & Training
Labor & Employment

© 2026 HUSCH BLACKWELL LLP. ALL RIGHTS RESERVED

resolving it, and he is known for his skill in shepherding clients through the sometimes-complex process of litigation and agency investigations. He's also known for building good working relationships with opposing counsel, which often help to resolve matters faster and at a lower cost for the client. Kyle takes his work seriously but not himself, and he always wants clients to feel better after talking with him.

Earlier in his career, Kyle served in an in-house role with H&R Block for eight years, handling a variety of legal matters and overseeing litigation across the country. He understands firsthand how much in-house attorneys and HR professionals are juggling, and his goal is to take as much off of clients' plates as he can. At the end of the day, Kyle wants clients to sleep better at night because they know he has matters under control.

Experience

- Achieved summary judgment in Kansas federal court on behalf of food processing company on racial discrimination and retaliation claim.
- Achieved summary judgment in Kansas federal court on behalf of community college on multiple discrimination and retaliation claims.
- Achieved summary judgment in Kansas federal court on behalf of bio sciences company on whistleblowing and retaliation claim.
- Represented restaurants in class and collective actions for alleged violations of tip credit and other wage and hour laws.
- Represented multiple clients in class and collective actions involving allegations of misclassification of exempt employees.
- As in-house counsel for H&R Block, managed defense of multiple employment and consumer class and collective actions around the country, including instances of multidistrict litigation.

© 2026 HUSCH BLACKWELL LLP. ALL RIGHTS RESERVED

Recognition

- *The Best Lawyers in America®*
  - Litigation - Labor and Employment, 2021-2027
  - Labor and Employment "Lawyer of the Year," Kansas City, 2023
- *Chambers USA*
  - Labor & Employment, 2022-2026

Education

- J.D., University of Arkansas School of Law
  - *magna cum laude*
  - *Arkansas Law Review*
- B.A., University of Missouri-Columbia

© 2026 HUSCH BLACKWELL LLP. ALL RIGHTS RESERVED

Admissions

- Arkansas
- Kansas
- Missouri
- U.S. Court of Appeals, Eighth Circuit
- U.S. District Court, Eastern District of Arkansas
- U.S. District Court, Western District of Arkansas
- U.S. District Court, District of Kansas
- U.S. District Court, Eastern District of Missouri
- U.S. District Court, Western District of Missouri
- U.S. District Court, Western District of Oklahoma
- U.S. District Court, Western District of Tennessee

Community Leadership

- Kansas Democratic Party, Rules and Bylaws Committee Chair, 2015-present
- Johnson County Democratic Party; Chair, 2010-2014; Treasurer, 2004-2010
- Johnson County Developmental Supports; Board Chair, 2020-2021; Board Member, 2014-present
- St. Andrew's Episcopal Church, Vestry (Board of Directors), 2009-2012
- Gillis Center, Board of Directors, 2008-2011

© 2026 HUSCH BLACKWELL LLP. ALL RIGHTS RESERVED

The Best Lawyers in America®

© 2026 HUSCH BLACKWELL LLP. ALL RIGHTS RESERVED