

Alex C. Riley

Associate

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Overview

Alex Riley is a trial lawyer whose state and federal litigation practice is concentrated in the areas of products liability defense, asbestos litigation, mass torts litigation, premises liability, professional negligence, insurance defense, and other complex business litigation. His clients include medical providers, small and large business, Fortune 500 companies, and leading manufacturers of consumer and commercial products, including major automakers and suppliers.

The Missouri native has hands-on trial experience defending medical providers and other businesses against claims of personal injury, wrongful death, and negligence in high-stakes multimillion-dollar lawsuits. Alex also has appellate court experience and has successfully defended trial verdicts and other court rulings favorable to his clients numerous times in the courts of appeals.

Alex graduated *summa cum laude* from Southern Illinois University School of Law in 2016. While in law school, he served as chief articles editor of the *Southern Illinois University Law Journal*, worked at the SIU Elder Law Clinic, served as a teaching assistant, and received six CALI Awards for academic excellence.

Alex also holds a bachelor's degree in political science from Thomas Edison State University in Trenton, NJ, which he earned when he was nineteen, and a paralegal certificate from Purdue University. Prior to entering law school, he gained valuable career experience working as a paralegal for a boutique litigation firm in Springfield, MO.

Before joining McAfee & Taft in 2019, Alex was an attorney with a Springfield, MO-based litigation firm.

Admissions

Missouri, 2016

U.S. District Court for the Western District of Missouri

Education

J.D., *summa cum laude*, Southern Illinois University, 2016; Chief Articles Editor, *Southern Illinois University Law Journal*; Teaching Assistant, Legal Research and Writing; Recipient, Dean's Scholarship; 6 CALI Awards

B.A. (Political Science), Thomas Edison State University, 2011

Professional Organizations and Memberships

Springfield Metropolitan Bar Association

Missouri Bar Association

Missouri Organization of Defense Lawyers

Civic Involvement and Leadership

The Network – The Springfield Area Chamber of Commerce's Young Professionals Organization

Representative Experience

- Obtained a favorable verdict at trial in Greene County, Missouri, for a large trucking company in a case in which liability was undisputed but in which plaintiff sought a multimillion-dollar verdict for damages. The jury returned a verdict for far less than that which plaintiff requested.
- Successfully defended on appeal a trial court judgment obtained in favor of a Missouri county which recognized that the county could not be held liable for a vehicle accident between two other parties that occurred on a road going up a hill because this road was not a dangerous condition. The Missouri Court of Appeals, Southern District, affirmed the trial court's ruling.
- Successfully defended on appeal a defense verdict in favor of a medical provider in a nursing negligence case in which plaintiff argued the trial court improperly failed to give to the jury a modified jury instruction on the issue of medical negligence. The Arkansas Court of Appeals affirmed the trial court's ruling and held there was no error in the trial court's refusal to give plaintiff's proffered instruction.
- Obtained a defense verdict at trial in Clay County, Missouri, for an OB/GYN in a wrongful death case involving the death of a baby in which the baby aspirated meconium during delivery and died shortly thereafter.
- Obtained a defense verdict at trial in Clay County, Missouri, for an OB/GYN in a medical malpractice case involving birth complications in which the baby experienced a shoulder dystocia during delivery and sustained a permanent brachial plexus palsy injury.
- Obtained a defense verdict at trial in Jasper County, Missouri, for a cardiologist in a wrongful death case in which plaintiff alleged the cardiologist should have cared for the decedent in a different manner.
- Successfully defended on appeal a defense verdict in favor of a medical provider in a wrongful death case in which plaintiffs alleged an OB/GYN's negligence caused three miscarriages. Plaintiffs argued the trial court improperly allowed defendants to submit evidence showing the miscarriages were due to chromosomal abnormalities and not any negligence on the part of defendants. The Missouri Court of Appeals, Southern District, affirmed the trial court's ruling admitting the evidence at trial and recognized the trial court did not err in so doing.
- Obtained a defense verdict at trial in Greene County, Missouri, for a cardiothoracic surgeon in a medical malpractice case involving a foreign instrument intentionally left in a patient following surgery.