



LAURA A. BENTELE

PARTNER

St. Louis, MO

314.342.4133

lbentele@atllp.com



Laura Bentele focuses her practice on commercial disputes, tort litigation and real estate matters. She is also a co-founder and leader of the firm's Agribusiness and Food team.

Laura defends multi-state consumer product retailers and manufacturers, regional utility companies, transportation companies, financial institutions and mining companies in state and federal courts around the country. She also counsels clients concerning regulations impacting agricultural industries, food safety and consumer fraud issues, including cases involving labeling claims, sanitary transportation, product contamination and defective products. In 2017, Laura obtained one of the top plaintiff wins in Missouri related to a case where she represented a local St. Louis business. The matter went before a federal jury, which returned a verdict for \$8.3 million.

To achieve optimal outcomes, Laura anticipates clients' strategic and practical business considerations. Laura has successfully tried cases to verdict before juries in state and federal courts, as well as managed alternative dispute resolution proceedings through aggressive negotiation of settlement terms. Ultimately, she strives to maintain open avenues of communication to ensure that clients receive representation that meets their business needs and goals.

EDUCATION

- Washington University School of Law (J.D., 2012)
 - Washington University Journal of Law and Policy, Staff Editor
 - National Moot Court Team, Member
 - Scholar in Law Award
- George Washington University (B.A.)
 - History and International Affairs

PROFESSIONAL ACTIVITIES

- Bar Association of Metropolitan St. Louis
- American Bar Association (Food Supplement Committee)
- Women in Agribusiness

CHARITABLE AND CIVIC INVOLVEMENT

SERVICES AND INDUSTRIES

Litigation

Complex Commercial

Litigation

Real Estate

Agribusiness and Food

Alternative Dispute Resolution

Life, Health, Disability and

ERISA Litigation

ADMISSIONS

Missouri

Illinois

U.S. District Court, Western

District of Missouri

U.S. District Court, Eastern

District of Missouri

U.S. District Court, Central

District of Illinois

- Team Activities for Special Kids, TASK (Junior Board Member)
- Volunteer Lawyers and Accountants for the Arts
- Missouri Botanical Garden Young Friends Council

ACCOLADES

- *The Best Lawyers in America*[®], Ones to Watch, Commercial Litigation (2021)
- Obtained #25 Plaintiff's Win in Missouri (2017)
- Selected as a barrister member of the Theodore McMillian American Inns of Court (2017-2019)
- Women's Justice Rising Star Award (2017)
- *St. Louis Business Journal* "30 Under 30" Award Recipient (2016)
- [*Missouri/Kansas Super Lawyers*](#)[®], Rising Star (2015-present)
- Member of the Governing Council of The Missouri Bar Young Lawyers' Section (2015-2017)
- Selected as an associate member of the Theodore McMillian American Inns of Court (2013-2015)
- Completed the Missouri Organization of Defense Lawyers 2014 Trial Academy

EXPERIENCE

Ongoing Indemnity Litigation in Missouri Trial and Appellate Courts

Representation of Fortune 150 corporation in complex commercial indemnity litigation in both Missouri state and appellate courts.

\$8.3 Million Verdict for Client in Business Negligence Case

Tried a complex contract and tort lawsuit in District Court for the Eastern District of Missouri on behalf of plaintiff garment design company whose building was destroyed after a natural gas explosion. Obtained an \$8.3 million verdict for clients after a seven-day trial. Verdict was ranked the #25 plaintiff win in Missouri in 2017.

Counsel to Meal Kit Company Preparing for Future Growth

Provided counsel to meal kit delivery service experiencing exponential growth. Addressed complex regulatory and sensitive litigation issues with innovative strategies to position the client for future growth and success.

Dismissal for Transportation Company in Contamination Lawsuit

Secured early dismissal of a matter in federal District Court for the District of Kansas for a transportation company in a food contamination lawsuit involving assorted negligence claims and claims under the Perishable Agricultural Commodities Act (PACA).

Favorable Outcome for Public Utility in Inverse Condemnation Trial

Tried a matter in Missouri state court for a public utility in a tort and takings lawsuit in which a favorable outcome was obtained for the defendant.

Favorable Verdict in Condemnation Action for Utility

Tried a condemnation action through verdict in Missouri state court on behalf of utility.

Successfully obtained a property value award millions less than the amount demanded by the property owner.

Obtained Summary Judgment for City Facing Multiple Claims

Obtained summary judgment ruling dismissing as a matter of law all federal and state claims asserted in a lawsuit filed in federal District Court for the Eastern District of Missouri against a city and won an award of the entirety of the client's attorneys' fees and costs as prevailing party, despite heightened obstacles to obtaining the same as a defendant.

Summary Judgment for Banking Institution Seeking to Protect Multimillion-Dollar Investment

Briefed and successfully argued summary judgment motion in Missouri state court on behalf of a regional banking institution seeking to protect a multimillion-dollar investment and obtained an order granting requested relief.

Summary Judgment for Consumer Goods Client

Obtained summary judgment on behalf of a consumer goods retailer in a complex declaratory judgment suit seeking the invalidation of a commercial lease and damages in the District Court for the Eastern District of Virginia.