



NICOLAS P. CEJAS

PARTNER

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Nick Cejas is leader of the firm's Health Care and Life Sciences industry team. His main focus is representing major hospitals, doctors, nurses and other professionals facing catastrophic injury and other medical malpractice claims. He also defends clients in premises liability, product liability, insurance and commercial actions. Nick is also a member of the firm's award-winning Mass Tort and Catastrophic Loss practice area, a team responsible for many of Missouri's top-ranking defense verdicts.

Experienced in all aspects of litigation, Nick is intricately involved in investigating the facts of a case, developing and implementing litigation strategy, consulting expert witnesses, preparing and responding to discovery, conducting depositions of fact and expert witnesses, and drafting and arguing dispositive motions. For example, he recently was instrumental in obtaining summary judgment on behalf of a large hospital sued for medical battery. He has also been a member of a number of successful trial teams.

As part of his practice, Nick counsels clients on the most appropriate steps to avoid litigation and offers advice on HIPAA compliance and the development of policies governing day-to-day operations. He also has substantial knowledge about electronic discovery.

Health Care

Nick represents clients in all types of medical malpractice, professional liability, breach of contract and other health care claims. These cases involve guardianship of incapacitated adult and minor patients; wrongful death; birth trauma; surgical and emergency care; primary care and internal medicine claims; informed consent; medical specialty, such as cardiology, dentistry, ophthalmology, radiology, and neurology; hospital and home-health nursing; nursing home and long-term-care facility issues; slip-and-falls; contract claims; and all other nonmedical premises liability, business disputes and hospital torts.

Products Liability and Tort

Nick aids clients facing both medical and nonmedical products liability and other tort claims. His varied work includes wrongful deaths, auto accidents, accident reconstruction and crash safety, batteries, fraud, negligence, negligent misrepresentation, strict liability, pharmaceutical litigation, and other product performance and failure issues.

Business and Commercial Litigation

Nick represents individuals, small businesses and multinational corporations in a variety of areas, including breach of contract, product development and liability, and wrongful

SERVICES AND INDUSTRIES

Litigation

Mass Tort and Catastrophic Loss

Medical Malpractice

Product Liability

Health Care and Life Sciences

Ethics and Professional Responsibility

ADMISSIONS

Missouri

Illinois

Kansas

U.S. District Court, Eastern District of Missouri

termination claims. His experience also includes representing insurers in matters relating to life, health and casualty insurance policies. As part of his practice, Nick counsels insurers and policyholders about coverage under primary, umbrella and excess policies and vigorously litigates breach of contract, declaratory judgment and bad faith claims.

EDUCATION

- Saint Louis University School of Law (J.D., *magna cum laude*, 2013)
 - Order of the Woolsack
 - Saint Louis University Law Journal, Managing Editor, 2012-2013
 - Academic Excellence Awards in Civil Procedure I, Property, Business Associations, Secured Transactions, and Pre-Trial Litigation
- Saint Louis University (B.S., *summa cum laude*, 2010)
 - Business Administration

CHARITABLE AND CIVIC INVOLVEMENT

- Rebuilding Together St. Louis, Young Friends Group (President, Steering Committee)

ACCOLADES

- *The Best Lawyers in America*® Ones to Watch, Criminal Defense: White Collar, Medical Malpractice Law - Defendants (2021-present), Product Liability Litigation - Defendants (2023-present)
- [*Missouri/Kansas Super Lawyers*](#)®, Rising Star (2018-present)
- Obtained #3 Defense Verdict in Missouri (2017)

BACKGROUND

Nick worked at another firm before joining Armstrong Teasdale in 2014. While attending Saint Louis University School of Law, Nick was the managing editor of the *Saint Louis University Law Journal* and elected to the Order of the Woolsack.

EXPERIENCE

Summary Judgment Affirmed for Health Care Client in IVF Services Dispute

Represented a regional hospital system in a medical malpractice dispute arising from in vitro fertilization services provided to a then-husband and wife. When it was revealed the wife had substituted the husband's semen sample for that of another man, the husband and the surrogate who carried the baby filed suit in St. Louis County Circuit Court. The Missouri Court of Appeals for the Eastern District affirmed an order granting summary judgment in favor of the defendants.

Dismissal in Multimillion-Dollar Qui Tam Case

Represented a health care client in a qui tam action involving alleged violations of the

Anti-Kickback Statute, False Claims Act and equivalent state-level laws. The U.S. District Court for the District of New Jersey dismissed the complaint with prejudice.

Patient Safety Organization Program Development, Implementation for Health System

Assisting a large health care system with developing and implementing a Patient Safety Organization program to ensure the privileged nature of its internal investigation materials.

Privileged Nature of Patient Safety Organization Materials Confirmed by Federal Court

During representation of an Illinois hospital system in a contentious medical malpractice case, obtained an order from a federal court judge confirming the privileged nature of Patient Safety Organization materials. This order has wide-ranging effects not only in Illinois but in federal and state courts nationwide.