



## WILLIAM RAY PRICE, JR.

### PARTNER

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When Ray Price joined Armstrong Teasdale in 2012, he had served the longest term of any judge on the Missouri Supreme Court. Since his return to private practice, Ray has tried a number of jury and nonjury trials, argued numerous appeals, and served as a mediator, arbitrator, and court appointed master in various civil and administrative cases. Ray's practice has included litigation of claims involving class actions, mass torts, product liability, pharmaceutical liability, environmental regulation, land use, administrative, governmental, and complex business issues.

While on the court, Price served two terms as chief justice—only the fourth judge to do so since the adoption of the Missouri Court Plan in 1940. In his 20 years on the bench, Ray authored more than 300 published opinions dealing with almost every aspect of Missouri law including class actions, merchandising practices, noncompetition agreements, arbitration clauses, insurance, products liability, toxic torts, medical malpractice, defamation, land use, premises liability, condemnation trusts and estates, and state taxation. During his term, Ray championed the development of drug courts and criminal sentencing reform. He also served on a number of national boards that focus on improving the education of judges in science and economics.

Prior to his appointment to Missouri's highest court in 1991, Ray was a business litigation attorney for 14 years at a major Kansas City-based law firm. He represented clients in state and federal court cases involving class actions, officers and directors' liability, securities, trade secrets, non-competition agreements, distribution agreements, insurance, products liability, land use condemnation, administrative law and general commercial transactions.

### EDUCATION

- Washington and Lee University School of Law (J.D., *cum laude*, 1978)
- Yale University (1975)
  - Rockefeller Fellow
- University of Iowa (B.A., *with distinction*, 1974)
  - Religion

### PROFESSIONAL ACTIVITIES

- The Missouri Bar
- Theodore McMillian American Inns of Court, Master Member (2013-2015)

### SERVICES AND INDUSTRIES

Alternative Dispute Resolution  
Appellate  
Class Action Litigation  
Complex Commercial Litigation  
Environmental  
Government Relations and Public Policy  
Insurance Coverage Litigation  
Litigation  
Mass Tort and Catastrophic Loss  
Medical Malpractice  
Product Liability  
Noncompete and Trade Secrets  
Professional Liability

### ADMISSIONS

Missouri  
U.S. District Court, Eastern District of Missouri  
U.S. District Court, Western District of Missouri

- Searle Civil Justice Institute
- National Courts Science Institute
- ASTAR, Advanced Science & Technology Adjudication Resource Center
- Missouri Drug Court Commission (Chairman, 2001-Present)
- National Association of Drug Court Professionals (Chairman, 2009-2011)
- National Conference of Chief Justices (1999-2001 and 2009-2011)
- *GL. v. Zumwalt monitoring committee*, U.S. District Court for the Western District of Missouri (1985-1987)

#### **CHARITABLE AND CIVIC INVOLVEMENT**

- St. Louis County Board of Police Commissioners (Chairman, 2019-present)
- Kansas City Board of Police Commissioners (1985-1989)
- Truman Medical Center, Kansas City (Executive Committee and Board of Directors, 1987-1992)
- Merit Selection Committee for U.S. Marshall, Western District of Missouri (Chairman, 1989)

#### **ACCOLADES**

- Spirit of Justice Award, Bar Association of Metropolitan St. Louis (2015)
- *The Best Lawyers in America*<sup>®</sup>; Administrative/Regulatory Law, Commercial Litigation, Ethics and Professional Responsibility Law (2014-present); Appellate Practice, Arbitration, Mediation (2021)
- Obtained #4 defense verdict in Missouri for role in a products liability case brought against TASER International Inc. (2012)
- Spurgeon Smithson Award, The Missouri Bar (2012)
- Award of Judicial Excellence, Lawyers Association of St. Louis (2012)
- Champion of Justice Award, Bar Association of Metropolitan St. Louis (2012)
- Herbert Harley Award, American Judicature Society (2012)
- Theodore McMillian Judicial Excellence Award, The Missouri Bar (2011)
- Chief Justice Richard Holmes Award of Merit, American Judges Association (2011)
- Stanley Goldstein Hall of Fame Award, National Association of Drug Court Professionals (2011)
- Legacy Award, Kansas City Metropolitan Bar Association (2011)
- President's Award, The Missouri Bar (2010)
- Harold Hughes Exceptional Service Award, National Rural Alcohol and Drug Abuse Network (2007)
- The Claire McCaskill Award, Missouri Association of Drug Court Professionals (2006)

- Robert Walston Chubb Award, Legal Services of Eastern Missouri (2001)
- Distinguished Non-Alumnus Award, University of Missouri School of Law (1996)
- Individual Winner, Burks Moot Court Competition, Washington and Lee University School of Law (1976)
- Burkes Teaching Fellowship, Washington and Lee University School of Law (1977-1978)
- Hancher-Finkbine Undergraduate Award, University of Iowa (1974)
- Phi Beta Kappa national undergraduate academic honors society
- Omicron Delta Kappa national leadership honor society

## EXPERIENCE

### **Decertification of a 3,500-Person Class Action**

The Missouri Supreme Court made permanent a writ of prohibition directing the trial court to decertify a class seeking damages for repossession and disposition of collateral. The Court held that the class was overbroad because 87% of its members had already been subject to deficiency or bankruptcy judgments extinguishing their claims.

### **Mediation Experience**

Ray has served as a mediator in a number of complex multi-party cases. Representative cases include a dispute over damages and remediation of a contaminated landfill; a dispute over claims by personal seat license holders against an national sports league team that left the city; a class action dispute concerning wage calculations; a class action dispute concerning promotional policies and testing; a whistleblower claim against a governmental agency; and a complex multi-partner dispute.

### **Summary Judgment Affirmed for University Workers in Co-Employee Case**

The Missouri Court of Appeals, Eastern District, affirmed summary judgment for three employees of a university who were sued by a co-worker who sustained personal injuries in a fall at work. Summary judgment in the case was granted in 2014, and while the case was on appeal, the relevant law changed three times. In the end, the Court of Appeals held that the clients did not have a duty to protect the plaintiff from risks in the workplace.

### **Reversal of \$72 and \$55 Million Judgments**

Armstrong Teasdale attorneys obtained reversal from the Missouri Court of Appeals of two separate judgments – one for \$72 million and one for \$55 million – against our client in cases alleging that the use of personal care products containing talcum powder caused ovarian cancer. This was the subject of media attention around the country and earned trial lawyer Tom Weaver the title of Litigator of Week in the AmLaw Litigation Daily.

### **Upheld Regulations of the Missouri Conservation Commission**

Armstrong Teasdale attorneys won an opinion from the Missouri Supreme Court upholding regulations of the Missouri Conservation Commission prohibiting the importation of whitetail deer. The regulation was challenged by hunting lodge owners who imported the deer for private hunts. The opinion confirmed the constitutional authority of the Conservation Commission to regulate wildlife and game in the state,

whether privately owned or not. The regulation was promulgated to protect all Missouri deer from chronic wasting disease.

**Obtained Reversal of Circuit Court Judgment Affirming Tax Assessments for Natural Gas Pipelines**

Obtained a reversal in the Missouri Court of Appeals of a Missouri State Tax Commission ruling, upheld on appeal to the circuit court, that disallowed depreciation in the calculation of real and personal property tax assessments for a statewide system of natural gas pipelines. Because the pipelines crossed 16 counties in the state, each of the underlying county assessments had to be appealed separately, necessitating appeals in each district of the Court of Appeals.

**Successful Intervention Under Amended 537.065 and Then \$8 Million Award in Arbitration Action**

Successfully intervened in arbitration approval action on behalf of insurance company months after alleged insured entered into R.S.Mo. 537.065 agreement. Following intervention, the court vacated its judgment approving an \$8 million arbitration award against the alleged insured.

**Successful Appeal to Missouri Supreme Court in Product Liability Case**

Appealed a \$1.1 million judgment in a product liability case to the Supreme Court of Missouri for a manufacturer of car haulers for tractor trailers. The Supreme Court reversed the judgment and remanded the case to the circuit court for a new trial.