



THOMAS J. FRITZLEN, JR.

PARTNER

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Tom Fritzlen, Jr., is a partner in the firm's Financial and Real Estate Services practice group. He represents some of the largest financial institutions in the country and has substantial experience in general civil and complex litigation involving commercial transactions, banking, creditors' rights, real estate and construction.

He has taken and defended hundreds of depositions, acted as lead trial counsel in numerous bench and jury trials in state and federal courts, successfully resolved numerous matters through mediation, and has won arbitration awards in construction and creditors' rights matters.

Tom's practice is founded on preparation and communication, and his incredibly strong skills in these areas lend to his success in developing creative solutions for his clients. A dedicated problem-solver, Tom employs a proactive approach in counseling his clients and ensures integrity in every interaction.

Under his direction, Tom's prior firm was a 10-time winner of the United States Foreclosure Network (USFN) Diamond Award of Excellence, demonstrating his commitment to high quality.

A frequent speaker, Tom has presented at national and local legal and creditor's rights conferences, and numerous educational seminars approved for CLE, as well as at dozens of onsite client trainings and industry events. He has covered topics including commercial transactions, mechanic's liens, Missouri and Kansas foreclosure, eviction, litigation and bankruptcy, and topics related to practice management and information technology.

Tom is also passionate about and active in mentoring other attorneys at the firm with a focus on the future of the legal profession.

BACKGROUND

Prior to joining Armstrong Teasdale, Tom spent more than 30 years as a shareholder at another Kansas City area firm.

EDUCATION

- University of Missouri School of Law (J.D., 1987)
 - Order of Barristers
 - National Moot Court Team

SERVICES AND INDUSTRIES

Litigation

Complex Commercial

Litigation

Construction Services

Debt Finance

Real Estate

Real Estate, Development,

Construction

Financial Services and Banking

ADMISSIONS

Missouri

Kansas

U.S. District Court, Western
District of Missouri

U.S. District Court, District of
Kansas

U.S. Court of Appeals, Eighth
Circuit

U.S. Court of Appeals, Tenth
Circuit

U.S. Court of Federal Claims

- Student Bar Association, President
- University of Kansas (B.A.)
 - Alpha Tau Omega

PROFESSIONAL ACTIVITIES

- The Missouri Bar
- USFN – America’s Mortgage Banking Attorneys (Membership Committee, Legal Issues Committee)
- Default Attorney Group (DAG)
- Attorney Financial Services Group (AFSG)
- Kansas City Metropolitan Bar Association (Construction Law Committee)
- Legal League 100 (Inaugural Advisory Council Member, 2012-2015)

CHARITABLE AND CIVIC INVOLVEMENT

- Advisory Commission for Anesthesiologist Assistants (Appointed by Missouri Governor, 2005-2008)
- The Upper Room (Board Member)

ACCOLADES

- *The Best Lawyers in America*®, Litigation - Real Estate (2023-present)
- *Missouri/Kansas Super Lawyers*® (2008-2014, 2019-present)

EXPERIENCE

Lead Trial Counsel in Jury and Bench Trials Before State, Federal and Appellate Courts

Served as lead trial counsel in numerous jury and bench trials in the state and federal courts in Kansas and Missouri. Successfully argued numerous cases in the Kansas and Missouri appellate courts, and before the Eighth and Tenth Circuit Courts of Appeal. Cases have involved construction defects, architect and accountant liability, title insurance and bad faith, and creditors’ rights claims.

Counsel in Commercial Litigation, Foreclosure, Special Assets and Receivership Matters

Served as counsel to local, regional and national lenders in numerous commercial litigation and foreclosure, special assets and receivership matters involving the sale and liquidation of nearly every type of real property and collateral, as well as workouts, including: office parks, mobile home parks, factory, warehouse and manufacturing properties, retail centers, marinas, medical offices and equipment, transportation development districts (TTDs), liquor stores, turkey farms, cattle, farm products and equipment, hotels, dry cleaners and many more.

Counsel to National Bank in Collection on Commercial Loan

Served as counsel to national bank in collection on commercial loan, secured by multi-state collateral, including receivership.

Lead Trial Counsel to National Bank in Chapter 11 Proceedings, First Virtual Evidentiary Hearing

Served as lead trial counsel to national bank lender in enforcement of rights in secured collateral in Chapter 11 bankruptcy proceedings, including the first virtual evidentiary hearing conducted in the court.

Counsel to Federal Agency Regarding Enforcement of Liens

Served as counsel to federal agency in connection with enforcement of liens on multi-state collateral.

Lead Trial Counsel to National Bank in Receivership, Foreclosure

Served as lead trial counsel to national bank in receivership and foreclosure of mobile home park.

Lead Trial Counsel to National Title Underwriter in Multimillion-Dollar Litigation

Served as lead trial counsel to national title underwriter in multimillion-dollar defense litigation, resulting in clarification of law in the Eighth Circuit on policy exclusions.

Lead Trial Counsel for National Bank in Adversary Proceeding in Bankruptcy Court

Served as lead trial counsel to national bank in adversary proceeding in bankruptcy court resulting in a judgment for priority of mortgage against \$15 million mechanic's liens on failed commercial project.

Successful Litigation as Lead Trial Counsel to Surety

Served as lead trial counsel to surety in successful litigation finding that surety was not liable due to general contractor's failure to properly declare default and trigger bond obligations.

Successful Construction Arbitration for General Contractor

Served as lead trial counsel in successful construction arbitration resulting in substantial award for general contractor.

Secured Jury Verdict for Client in Fraud Case

Served as lead trial counsel in securing jury verdict for client in connection with fraud in the inducement in commercial marketing agreement.

Missouri Counsel to National Lender in \$250 Million Loan Restructuring

Served as Missouri counsel to national lender in connection with the restructuring of a \$250 million loan.

Counsel to Lender in Multimillion-Dollar Loan Modification

Served as counsel to lender in connection with document review and borrower opinion in multimillion-dollar loan modification.