



Joseph E. Martineau

Member

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Joe Martineau advocates for media organizations and businesses in high-impact litigation, combining decades of courtroom experience with deep knowledge of communications law and First Amendment issues.

Joe focuses his practice on media and communications law, intellectual property law, health law litigation, and complex commercial litigation. He represents both local and national media organizations and has tried cases in state and federal courts in Missouri and Illinois, as well as argued appeals before the appellate and Supreme Courts in both states.

Joe writes and lectures frequently on topics including defamation, invasion of privacy, the First Amendment, and media law. He has served as an adjunct professor at Washington University for 20 years, where he teaches communications law. He regularly appears on panels and at conferences addressing media law issues and is the author of the Missouri Bar CLE Tort Law chapters on Defamation, Invasion of Privacy, and Reputational Damages.

Joe has been selected by his peers for inclusion in *Best Lawyers*® from 2005 to 2026. He was named “St. Louis Litigation – First Amendment Lawyer of the Year” in 2012, 2016, 2019, and 2021, and “St. Louis Media Lawyer of the Year” in 2017, 2024, and 2025. He was also selected for inclusion in *Missouri & Kansas Super Lawyers*® from 2009 to 2021 and is AV® Preeminent™ Peer Review Rated by Martindale-Hubbell. Joe serves as Chair of the Firm’s Media Practice Committee.

Education

- Saint Louis University School of Law (J.D., *magna cum laude*, 1982)
 - Order of the Woolsack
 - Dean’s List, all semesters
 - *Saint Louis University Law Journal*, research editor
- Stonehill College (B.A., *magna cum laude*, 1979)
 - Political Science, Economics

Services

- Media & Communications
- Banking Litigation
- Intellectual Property
- Bankruptcy & Insolvency

Legal Background

- Adjunct professor of communications law, Washington University - University College
- Student law clerk intern, Hon. Theodore McMillan, United States Court of Appeals, Eighth Circuit (1981)
- Insurance defense, Gundlach, Lee, Eggman, Boyle & Roessler (1980-1981)
- Intern, Public Defender Service, Washington, DC (1978)

Professional Affiliations

- Forum Committee on Communications Law, American Bar Association
- Illinois State Bar Association
- Bar Association of Metropolitan St. Louis
- Lawyer's Committee, Libel Defense Resource Center

Admissions

- U.S. Supreme Court
- Eighth Circuit, U.S. Court of Appeals
- Eastern District of Missouri, U.S. District Court
- Southern District of Illinois, U.S. District Court
- Northern District of Illinois, U.S. District Court
- Central District of Illinois, U.S. District Court
- District of Colorado, U.S. District Court
- Eastern District of Michigan, U. S. District Court
- U.S. Court of Federal Claims
- Missouri Bar
- Illinois Bar

Charitable & Civic Involvement

- Board of Directors, Missouri Press Foundation
- Board of Directors and Vice President, St. Louis Press Club