



## Thomas R. Larson

Member

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Thomas Larson represents manufacturers and businesses in high-stakes trials, appeals, and mass tort matters across the country.

Tom has more than 40 years of litigation experience and is widely recognized for his work representing manufacturers and businesses in high-stakes disputes. He serves as regional counsel for numerous companies and as national litigation counsel in asbestos claims for a major agricultural equipment manufacturer.

Tom has served as lead trial counsel in more than 50 jury trials, achieving a winning percentage of 85%. He is among a select group of attorneys to have secured a defense verdict in an asbestos case in the City of St. Louis (*Goede v. Aerojet Gen. Corp.*). His trial work has earned recognition for significant verdicts as both defense and plaintiff's counsel, including in *Nichols v. Kubota Tractor Corp.* and *D.D. Beal v. Mid-Missouri Bank*.

In addition to his trial success, Tom has a strong appellate record, often handling appeals following trial court losses by other counsel. His win rate of 90% as appellant and 90% as respondent reflects his strategic approach and deep understanding of appellate advocacy. His cases have helped shape Missouri law, including decisions on comparative fault, punitive damages, component part liability, and product design standards.

Tom's track record of success and innovation has not only demonstrated itself in the courtroom, but in the management of cases, as well. Here are a couple of examples:

- He has developed protocols for the efficient and focused defense of mass tort litigation which have drastically reduced defense costs, while keeping settlement payments down.
- He was instrumental in increasing the size of a client's insurance recovery for a hurricane loss by more than 15% against strong opposition by the insurer, resulting in a total recovery of over \$56 million.
- He has successfully designed and initiated a system and protocols in which a predecessor-in-interest and its successor-in-interest to certain liabilities now work together with one another in such a way that both parties have reduced their year-to-year costs associated with those liabilities.

### Services

- Products Liability
- Complex Litigation
- Professional Liability
- Appellate Litigation
- Environmental, Chemical & Toxic Tort

Tom's approach emphasizes early case assessment and strategic planning. He works closely with clients to evaluate risk, forecast outcomes, and design efficient paths to resolution. When trial is necessary, he brings decades of courtroom experience to deliver strong results.

He is a Fellow of the Litigation Counsel of America's Trial Lawyer Honorary Society and is AV® Preeminent™ Peer Review Rated by Martindale-Hubbell. Tom has been selected by his peers for inclusion in Best Lawyers® from 2020 to 2026.

## **Education**

- Washburn University School of Law (J.D., 1974)
- University of Kansas (B.A., 1972)
  - Political Science and Philosophy

## **Legal Background**

- Larson & Larson, P.C., Kansas City, MO (1995-2007), President, 10-lawyer, AV-rated boutique litigation firm
- Watson & Marshall, LLC, Kansas City, MO (1990-1995), Chairman, litigation department (75 lawyers) and Executive Committee
- Morris, Larson, King, Stamper & Bold, Kansas City, MO (1974-1990), Director, litigation department

## **Professional Affiliations**

- Fellow, Litigation Counsel of America, The Trial Lawyer Honorary Society
- Kansas City Metropolitan Bar Association
- Defense Research Institute
- Member, Diversity Law Institute
- Member, Trial Law Institute
- Barrister, Order of Justitia
- Advocate, Order of Certus

## **Admissions**

- Eighth Circuit, U.S. Court of Appeals
- Tenth Circuit, U.S. Court of Appeals
- Western District of Missouri, U.S. District Court
- Eastern District of Missouri, U.S. District Court
- District of Kansas, U.S. District Court
- Southern District of Illinois, U.S. District Court
- District of Nebraska, U.S. District Court
- Missouri Bar
- Kansas Bar