

KANSAS CITY BUSINESS JOURNAL



Kansas City's top lawyers
as chosen by a jury of their peers

Influence comes in mixed packages

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by [Jonna Lorenz](#)

Associate editor

Influence comes in mixed packages. That's the message of the fifth-annual Best of the Bar program.

Although many of the area's largest law firms are represented on this year's list, so are numerous small firms and solo practices. In fact, this year's Best of the Bar honorees practice law at 91 firms.

Along with a broad swath of area law firms, the 2006 Best of the Bar supplement recognizes lawyers in 30 legal categories. The wide reach of this year's section reflects the careful thought given to the nomination process by the more than 500 area lawyers who voted.

These are welcomed results during a year of change for the program. This year we moved our nomination process online and managed our expectations cautiously. But area lawyers didn't flinch. The number of participants and votes cast kept pace with last year's results.

The peer-review process allows lawyers to decide who should be recognized among their peers. Letters were mailed to all active lawyers in Jackson, Clay, Platte, Wyandotte and Johnson counties asking them to consider whom they admire and respect. The nominations were tallied, and a list of the top vote-getters was passed before a panel of accomplished area lawyers as a final check of the honorees' reputations and standings.

The process generates a dynamic list that recognizes long-standing prowess while remaining nimble enough to respond as new leaders emerge. Among this year's honorees are 34 who have been on the list each year since the program's inception and 36 first year recipients.

Lawyers are listed in alphabetical order and by practice area.

We hope this section provides a snapshot of premier players in the Kansas City area's legal community and serves as a useful resource for anyone seeking an attorney.

Todd Graves

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Todd Graves

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Practice areas: White-collar criminal, government regulatory compliance, civil litigation

Law school: [University of Virginia](#), 1991

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Quote: "Serving on the Department of Justice Committee advising the Attorney General of the United States in the immediate aftermath of 9/11 was one of the most interesting law experiences of my career. I will never forget the weight of the twin challenges of vast uncertainty of the threat and broad responsibility to protect our country and people that the attorney general and the entire Department of Justice faced at that time."