

# GRAVES GARRETT NEWS

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## GRAVES GARRETT ADDS EXPERIENCED LITIGATOR

Graves Garrett LLC is pleased to announce the addition of attorney Jennifer Donnelly to the firm. She brings increased experience to a nationwide commercial litigation practice.



Jennifer Donnelly

Donnelly joins Graves Garrett after a lengthy stint in a national law firm, where her practice focused in the areas of business and real estate litigation in Missouri and Kansas and federal courts. She has experience as office work leader for foreclosure defense matters with three national lenders and has managed the work of associate attorneys and other staff in similar litigation for other financial service clients.

"We have long admired Jennifer's work and consider her an important addition to the firm's roster," said Todd Graves,

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## Letter from the Firm

Graves Garrett wishes you and your family the absolute best this holiday season. We are grateful for your friendship and the opportunity to work with you in business and in the community. With the holidays in mind, we hope you enjoy this edition of our newsletter, which we are particularly proud to share because it features a few photos of our families. As we gather with them this Christmas, we'll be reflecting on another blessed and wonderful year.

As a firm, we are also pleased to share updates on our practice. For instance, Todd Graves and Nathan Garrett were recently recognized again as among the Best of the Bar by the Kansas City Business Journal; Kathleen Fisher was honored as among Ingram's 40 Under Forty; and Eddie Greim earned inclusion in Best Lawyers in America®'s annual listing.

In addition, as a team, we are proud to share that two of our associates are moving on to pursue new roles with the U.S. Attorney's Office, while we are excited to announce a new addition in Jennifer Donnelly.

All that said, we underscore again the fact that we have much to be thankful for, not the least of which is your friendship and support. We wish you a wonderful New Year. ■

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Graves Garrett LLC

# GARRETT FEATURED IN MLW HIGHLIGHTING LAW ENFORCEMENT EXPERIENCE

Missouri Lawyers Weekly recently published an article detailing Graves Garrett partner Nathan Garrett's intersecting roles as an attorney, former law enforcement officer and current president of the Kansas City (Missouri) Board of Police Commissioners.

An excerpt of the article can be read below. The full story is available in the October 2018 issue of Missouri Lawyers Weekly.

## LEGAL PERSPECTIVE

Kansas City lawyer brings law enforcement background to oversight role  
By Jessica Shumaker

Kansas City attorney Nathan Garrett isn't the first lawyer to become president of the Kansas City Board of Police Commissioners, but his background as a former rank-and-file police officer and prosecutor equips him with a unique perspective on the job.

Garrett, of the firm Graves Garrett, has spent his career working in different levels of law enforcement, from the streets to the courtroom.

In July 2017, former Gov. Eric Greitens appointed Garrett to fill the remaining two years of a resigning commissioner's term on the board. The outgoing commissioner Garrett replaced also had been the board vice president, putting him in line to become president in his second year of service. He took the position of president in April.

In that role, Garrett is a public face for the board, which provides oversight to the Kansas City Police Department.

The board was created in response to corruption in the police department during the era of political boss Tom Pendergast, who controlled much of Kansas City politics and government during the 1920s-30s. The department has been under state control since 1939. The governor appoints the members of the board, typically to four-year terms.

## U.S. NEWS RECOGNIZES FIRM WITH RANKINGS

Graves Garrett LLC is pleased to announce four recognitions for the firm in the 2019 edition of the U.S. News – Best Lawyers® Best Law Firm rankings, including one at the national level.

For the first time, Graves Garrett received a national ranking in Litigation. Additionally, the firm maintained its Kansas City Metropolitan rankings in Commercial Litigation, Criminal Defense: White-Collar, and Litigation.

Garrett said he's enjoyed the work so far.

"This is something we all do because we feel a calling to do it," he said. "There's a public responsibility associated with it. It's not an income-producing exercise."

Garrett's first passion was law enforcement. While he was completing his undergraduate education, he worked as a deputy juvenile officer and a commissioned sheriff's deputy during the summers in his hometown of West Plains.

He worked for the police department in West Plains for a year after he completed college before enrolling in law school at the University of Tulsa College of Law. He continued to work for the police department when he returned for the summers.

After graduating from law school, Garrett took a job at the Howell County Prosecuting Attorney's Office as an assistant prosecutor. While the job represented a good opportunity to work in the legal field in his hometown, he said he missed working in law enforcement.

"I enjoyed it. I benefited greatly from the experience, but I wasn't done with being on the streets," he said.

He would go on to become a trooper for the Missouri State Highway Patrol — and the first lawyer to graduate from the academy — and later joined

the FBI as a special agent. While stationed in Dallas, Texas, he became a special assistant prosecutor for the U.S. Attorney's Office, handling national security prosecutions.

In 2005, he transferred to the U.S. Attorney's Office for the Western District of Missouri, where he became chief of the national security unit in Kansas City. He remained there until 2008, when he joined former U.S. Attorney Todd Graves ... at the firm now known as Graves Garrett. ■

Graves Garrett earned a Tier 1 metropolitan ranking in all three categories, moving up from Tier 2 in 2018 for Litigation.

The U.S. News – Best Lawyers® "Best Law Firms" rankings are based on a rigorous evaluation process, which includes input from multiple sources. To receive a ranking, a firm must have at least one attorney who is recognized in the current edition of Best Lawyers in a "Best Law Firms" ranked practice area/metro area. ■

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# Missouri Lawyers WEEKLY

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## LEGAL PERSPECTIVE

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By Jessica Shumaker  
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**It's an eternal itch to have my nose in the business of law enforcement," says attorney Nathan Garrett, president of the Kansas City Board of Police Commissioners.**

that has helped him on the board of police commissioners is the ability to identify and find solutions to problems. While some of that was instilled by his family while he was growing up, he said he built his skill set in the courtroom and his prosecutor approach problems. But I have my own style, then and now, of identifying and solving problems and ... given the realities of that circumstance, I find things to do to be."

Additionally, he said working in law enforcement has honed his investigation skills, which in turn helped his private practice.

"I said his perspective as a law enforcement officer also has helped him as a lawyer in building credibility with federal prosecutors, which enables him to effectively advocate for his clients.

"The government knows that I had a good understanding of the realities of the situation," he said. "The situation was what it was, not what others wanted it to be. I had my feet on the ground."

As a federal prosecutor, he noted that sometimes an attorney's advocacy for a client can be "subjectively zealous."

"That doesn't do a client a service when they're just exposing something because that's the argument they think is in the client's best interest, even though it might have not brought an apparent demonstration," he said. "I think that's something on the side that has to manifest all the time. What do the facts actually show? And given that reality, that's all we can do."

No matter where his legal career takes him, Garrett said he expects to continue to work through such key issues as the use of body cameras, resource management and violent crime.

In terms of resource management, he said he hopes to ensure that the department makes the best use of its budget and its people. If the department needs more officers, he said he wants to make sure there's a solid argument for why more is needed, and to show that resources are managed well.

Already, the city has allocated enough funds to the department to hire approximately 25 officers in the next year.

"There's a career path. You don't get there all at once. We're looking forward to getting those allocated," he said. "Clearly, having more officers is always a benefit. We need to make sure we're using what we have wisely."

Garrett said he said it's always to use because violence can be cyclical and the need of it can be turned beyond the ability of police to curb it.

He said his job as a police commissioner is to "figure out those tools that make a difference tonight."

"I care about those more philosophical, conceptual, longer-term, broader issues ... but I have to figure out what helps me tonight," he said. "What's going to help prevent one more homicide? What's going to ensure that my officer comes home safely tonight?"

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## HAPPY HOLIDAYS FROM THE GRAVES GARRETT FAMILY TO YOURS



Partner Eddie Greim with his wife Claudia Greim and their children Helena, Paloma, Margarethe, Wilhelmina and Maria.



Partner Todd Graves with his wife Tracy Graves and their children Katie, Hank, Joe and Ben.



Partner Kathleen Fisher with her husband Jeffrey Fisher and their children Isabelle, Addison and Owen.



Partner Nathan Garrett with his wife Adrienne Garrett and their children Payton and Cole Jack.

## GRAVES GARRETT ASSOCIATES ACCEPT POSITIONS WITH U.S. ATTORNEY'S OFFICE

Graves Garrett extends congratulations to attorneys Alan Simpson and Ben Hurst on accepting new positions as Assistant United States Attorneys for the Western District of Missouri. Simpson and Hurst most recently worked as associate attorneys at Graves Garrett.

Simpson came to Graves Garrett in 2015 and garnered recognition from Missouri Lawyers Weekly as part of its Up & Coming award class of 2017. He was an active member of the firm's free speech and election law practice and routinely counseled and represented clients on a range of political law issues, including state and federal campaign finance regulations, government ethics matters and initiative petitions.

Hurst spent nearly three years with Graves Garrett and earned Missouri Lawyers Weekly's Up & Coming

honor this past fall. He specialized in speech, election and privacy litigation and prosecuted civil claims challenging government action and defended clients under investigation and facing prosecution.

"While the firm will miss both Alan and Ben, we also recognize the incredible opportunity they have with the U.S. Attorney's office," said Todd Graves, partner at Graves Garrett. "Alan and Ben are tremendous attorneys, and we thank them for their hard work, dedication and professionalism in the time they spent with us. There is no doubt that they will continue to be assets in this next phase of their careers. We wish them all the best."

Graves served as the U.S. Attorney for the Western District of Missouri after being appointed and



Ben Hurst



Alan Simpson

confirmed to the spot by President George W. Bush in October 2001.

Nathan Garrett, the other name partner at the firm, served seven years as an Assistant United States Attorney for the Northern District of Texas and Western District of Missouri, having previously served as a FBI special agent. ■



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## GRAVES GARRETT ADDS NEW ATTORNEY

► *Continued from page 1*

partner at Graves Garrett. “We see opportunity to continue expanding our work in commercial litigation and believe Jennifer will aid us in doing valuable work for our clients throughout the country.”

Donnelli completed her undergraduate education at William Jewell College in Liberty, Missouri, before earning her Juris Doctor from the University of Missouri-Kansas City School of Law in 1998. She is a member of the American Bar Association, Kansas City Metropolitan Bar Association and the Association for Women Lawyers of Greater Kansas City.

“I’m thrilled to join a firm with such a respected reputation, not just in Kansas City but throughout the country,” Donnelli said. “Graves Garrett performs high-level work across many important practices, and I look forward to providing further resources to commercial litigation for the firm. This is a wonderful opportunity for me in my career.” ■

## PARTNERS NAMED TO KCBJ’S ‘BEST OF THE BAR’

Graves Garrett is honored to have partners Todd Graves and Nathan Garrett named to the Kansas City Business Journal’s 2018 Best of the Bar list, the publication’s 17th annual compilation of the metro area’s top lawyers in private practice. Both are repeat honorees.

For the second straight year, a panel of five judges selected the attorneys for the list, and this new process results in a much more exclusive list. Graves and Garrett were among only 56 attorneys named to the Best of the Bar in 2018.



Nathan Garrett



Todd Graves

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**“This is a testament to the collective skills of the attorneys at our firm and the dedication shown to achieving outcomes for our valued clients.”**

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Attorneys are selected based on both their legal work and community involvements, and all honorees were recognized at a ceremony October 25.

“Graves Garrett is proud to have two members of the firm receive this distinction in the same year,” Graves said. “This is a testament to the collective skills of the attorneys at our firm and the dedication shown to achieving outcomes for our valued clients.” ■