

GRAVES GARRETT NEWS

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Katie Graves following familiar path toward legal future

In the beginning, Katie Graves went to the University of Missouri with the intention of pursuing a career in journalism. The course of her studies slightly changed between her sophomore and junior years, and when deciding law school would be part of the future, she knew just where to apply.

Katie — daughter of firm founding partner Todd Graves — recently started her first semester at University of Virginia School of Law. She already completed her undergraduate studies at her dad's alma mater, and next up will be a Juris Doctor from the school where he earned his in 1991.

"All along, I really did want to go to UVA. My dad went here, and I loved the school," Graves said. "I love how they create a really nice work-life balance for students, and with all the political and legal history here, I knew it was the right place for me. Very early in the law school application process I knew I wanted to go here."

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FORMER ACTING ATTORNEY GENERAL JOINS GRAVES GARRETT

Graves Garrett is pleased to announce that Matthew Whitaker, former acting Attorney General of the United States and former Chief of Staff for the AG has joined the firm effective Aug. 1, 2019.



Matthew Whitaker

"Our firm has enjoyed a long-standing relationship with Matt both in private practice and in his official capacity with the Department of Justice," Graves Garrett Partner Todd Graves said. "We are pleased to have him join us as we advise clients on a range of matters that will benefit from his experience working at the highest levels of leadership within the federal government, as well as his former experience in private practice and in-house counsel roles."

Graves Garrett has intentionally grown a practice that boasts a concentration of former federal and state government

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GREIM, LUETKEMEYER AUTHOR OP-ED ON SUPREME COURT RULINGS FOR USA TODAY

Earlier this summer, the United States Supreme Court issued two decisions adopting arguments made by Graves Garrett partners Eddie Greim and Lucinda Luetkemeyer on behalf of their client, the National Republican Redistricting Trust.



Lucinda Luetkemeyer



Eddie Greim

Greim and Luetkemeyer filed an amicus brief with the High Court on behalf of the National Republican Redistricting Trust in support of the North Carolina legislature in *Rucho v. Common Cause*. Graves Garrett's brief asked the court to reject the plaintiffs' request for a sweeping and unworkable "group right" of political parties to proportional representation and leave redistricting to the political branches of government.

The court agreed, ruling that conflicts over partisan gerrymandering are best left to politicians and the electoral process. Both the majority and dissenting opinion made reference to Missouri's recent experience, a point covered in Graves Garrett's brief. Additionally, Greim and Luetkemeyer authored the opposing view to USA Today's editorial on the topic.

"The Court has settled a decades-long controversy over whether federal courts should hear partisan gerrymandering cases, answering definitively that federal courts will not hear these claims," Greim said. "This decision keeps redistricting judgments with the political branches, and for that reason, it's a victory for the Constitution." ■

GRAVES GARRETT'S KRUGER HONORED IN MISSOURI LAWYERS WEEKLY'S 2019 UNSUNG LEGAL HEROES CLASS

Missouri Lawyers Weekly recently selected Graves Garrett's Nichole Kruger as a 2019 Unsung Legal Heroes honoree in the paralegal category. She was featured in the publication's June 22 special section.

"I have to say thanks to the partners and attorneys at the firm," Kruger said in her Missouri Lawyers Weekly profile, which can be read in full here. "Graves Garrett has truly become my home away from home, and I'm continually grateful for the opportunity to develop as a professional while doing work I enjoy."



Nichole Kruger

Kruger has worked at Graves Garrett since January 2009, and in 2014, she graduated from National American University with a bachelor's in paralegal science. Prior to joining the firm, Kruger built a relationship with firm name partners Nathan Garrett and Todd Graves during a six-year stint at the U.S. Attorney's Office in Kansas City, Missouri. She worked at the office when Graves was appointed to the post of U.S. Attorney for the Western District of Missouri and during Garrett's tenure there.

Earlier this year, the Heartland Paralegal Association elected Kruger as the president. She has been a voting member for two years and involved for three years with the not-for-profit professional organization, dedicated to the advancement of the paralegal profession by promoting the benefits of effective and increased utilization of paralegals within the legal community. ■

THREE ATTORNEYS MAKE REPEAT APPEARANCES IN THE BEST LAWYERS IN AMERICA® GUIDE

Graves Garrett is pleased to announce three of the firm's partners have again been recognized for their legal work in The Best Lawyers in America® 2020, a U.S. News & World Report-sponsored peer review guide honoring legal professionals. Todd Graves made the list for the 10th straight year, Nathan Garrett for the sixth straight year, and Eddie Greim for the third straight year.

Recognition by Best Lawyers is based entirely on peer review. The organization's methodology is "designed to capture, as accurately as possible, the consensus opinion of leading lawyers about the professional abilities of their colleagues within the same geographical area and legal practice area."

A person receives recognition from Best Lawyers for his or her success in the legal industry within specific practice areas. Graves (Commercial Litigation, Criminal Defense: White-Collar, Litigation – Regulatory Enforcement (SEC, Telecom, Energy)) and Garrett (Commercial Litigation, Criminal Defense: White-Collar, Qui Tam Law) were both honored in three categories, while Greim earned distinction in one practice area. ■



Todd Graves



Nathan Garrett



Eddie Greim

GRAVES GARRETT MULTIMILLION-DOLLAR SETTLEMENT IN TITLE IX LAWSUIT FOR VICTIM OF SEXUAL ASSAULT BY HIGH SCHOOL COACH

On behalf of a confidential "Jane Doe" client, Graves Garrett has obtained a multimillion-dollar settlement in a lawsuit filed in the U.S. District Court for the District of Nebraska. Graves Garrett LLC attorneys Kathleen Fisher and Dane Martin represented the plaintiff, who remained anonymous throughout nearly two years of litigation.

In November 2017, Graves Garrett filed the lawsuit against the Scottsbluff Public Schools and Scotts Bluff Country Club on behalf of a female Jane Doe who as a minor had been groomed and sexually abused by her high school golf coach. Jane Doe claimed that the Scottsbluff Public Schools knew of the abuse, yet was deliberately indifferent to her rights — allowing the abuse and harassment to continue for years to protect its star golf coach. Jane Doe also alleged that the Scotts Bluff Country Club employed the golf coach and knew of the abuse, but allowed golf practices to continue on its premises, where further abuse occurred.

"This outcome cannot erase the pain from what happened, but it will go a long way toward helping our client move on with her life and pursue her goals," Fisher said. "It also provides much-needed accountability to officials who have a duty to protect our children. Even today, far too many victims of childhood sexual abuse are reluctant to report what happened and pursue relief against their perpetrators — an unfortunate reality that is now changing."

Graves Garrett vigorously litigated the case on behalf of Jane Doe, including compelling discovery of thousands of pages of documents and taking more than a dozen depositions of school officials and witnesses throughout the country. Graves Garrett also litigated a portion of Jane Doe's claims before the Nebraska Supreme Court. ■



Kathleen Fisher



Dane Martin

FORMER ACTING U.S. ATTORNEY GENERAL JOINS GRAVES GARRETT

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attorneys in the nation. For instance, Todd Graves is a former U.S. attorney for the Western District of Missouri, and Partner Nathan Garrett is a former FBI special agent and assistant U.S. attorney who served as chief of the National Security and Terrorism Section in the United States Attorney's Office.

Whitaker's experience bolsters the firm's strength in this regard, given his additional experience as acting attorney general of the United States as well as having served in numerous other leadership roles within the federal government, including chief of staff to former U.S. Attorney General Jeff Sessions. Whitaker is also a former U.S. attorney for the Southern District of Iowa, which was a presidentially appointed position he held from 2004 to 2009.

Whitaker's experience also includes serving as managing partner of the Des Moines-based law firm Whitaker Hagenow & Gustoff LLP from 2009 until rejoining the Department of Justice in 2017. During his time with Whitaker Hagenow & Gustoff, the firm had established a strategic relationship with Graves Garrett, which allowed the firms to work together on unique matters that drew on the experience and strengths of both firms. ■

FEDERALIST SOCIETY NAMES GREIM TO NATIONAL PRACTICE GROUP EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Graves Garrett partner Eddie Greim has been selected to serve a term on the Federalist Society for Law and Public Policy Studies' national Free Speech & Election Law Practice Group executive committee.



Eddie Greim

At Graves Garrett, Greim focuses his practice on free speech and election law, complex commercial litigation, internal investigations and whistleblower claims. His free speech and election law experience has included numerous constitutional challenges to election and campaign finance laws; representation of clients in state and federal ethics and campaign finance enforcement actions and investigations; initiative petition drafting and litigation; litigation and advice regarding First Amendment protections for petition circulation; representation of not-for-profit clients before state regulators; and advice on campaign and election law compliance.

The Federalist Society is a group of attorneys, law professors, judges and students interested in the current state of the legal order, founded on the principles that the state exists to preserve freedom, that the separation of governmental powers is central to our Constitution, and that it is emphatically the province and duty of the judiciary to say what the law is, not what it should be. The organization seeks both to promote an awareness of these principles and to further their application through its activities.

In addition to his national role, Greim currently serves as the president of the Kansas City Lawyers Chapter of the Federalist Society. ■



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KATIE GRAVES FOLLOWING FAMILIAR PATH TOWARD LEGAL FUTURE

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Katie remembers participating in parades during Todd's campaigns for reelection as Platte County prosecuting attorney and visiting the federal facilities when he served as prosecuting attorney for the Western District of Missouri before going into private practice at Graves Garrett. Quite simply, the law was always a big part of her life.

However, Katie didn't fully understand her father's work until later in life.

"It wasn't until I was older that I realized the impact he had on others," she said. "Hearing about victims and their stories and the actual news about what my father had done in his career was eye-opening."

With that influence, Katie graduated from Pembroke Hill and moved on to Mizzou, with the prestigious journalism school her main focus. She did earn her degree in that field but experience as an intern with The Federalist Society — a group of professionals and academics dedicated to reforming the current legal order — helped to pique her interest in the legal profession.

Since then, Katie also has interned at Graves Garrett and for the Hon. Roseann A. Ketchmark with the United States District Court for the Western District of Missouri. She applied to law school, and once accepted to Virginia, she didn't hesitate at the opportunity to continue the familiar route her father took into the legal field.

"I've come to realize how many amazing things my dad has done, and through his example and his career and the impact he's made, he's really inspired me to go into

law," Katie said. "My parents have always been pretty open in wanting me to pave my own path and figure out what I wanted to do on my own. From the get-go with my law school application and being here in Virginia, he's been nothing but encouraging and really helpful in reminding me of my goals and how I don't need to get stressed in the details with where I am now. He reminds me that it will work out and helps me keep perspective, which I appreciate."

Katie currently sees her professional future in prosecution and hopes to clerk with the United States Court of Appeals for the Eighth Circuit. She's particularly drawn to the idea of assisting victims of crime and playing a meaningful role in the criminal justice system.

Ideally, Katie would return closer to home with a Juris Doctor, and although she doesn't currently envision working in a law firm environment, there's always the chance to change direction once more.

"I think Missouri has a lot of issues and problems that I'd love to help address, rather than move to a bigger city," Katie said. "I know a lot of my classmates are looking to go to D.C. or New York, but I definitely see myself going back to Missouri to do my work there. As of now, I'd really like to go into prosecution, but I'm also keeping my mind open to other opportunities — especially with my interest in constitutional law."

"Wherever I go, I think I'd like to have the same level of variety in legal work as what my dad and the other attorneys do at Graves Garrett." ■