

GRAVES GARRETT GREIM NEWS

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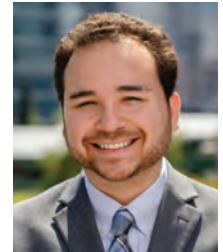
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GRAVES GARRETT GREIM STRENGTHENS BENCH WITH ADDITION OF PARIS

Graves Garrett Greim LLC (GGG) is pleased to announce Sal Paris joined the firm as an associate. Hailing from Kansas City and a graduate



Sal Paris

of Rockhurst High School, he earned his legal degree at the University of Missouri School of Law, graduating magna cum laude and a member of Order of the Coif.

Paris previously completed a summer associateship at GGG, where he received beneficial training, mentorship, and exposure to the firm's clients and casework. His private practice includes an ability to handle an impressively diverse mix of complex commercial litigation, white collar criminal defense, and government investigations.

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Lawyer or musician: GGG's Craig still finding ways to indulge both of his true passions

Aaron Craig's mother always told her son he "argued like a lawyer." From a young age, earning a legal degree became a goal ... if his dreams of becoming a rock star didn't pan out.

Aaron played in one band or another through high school and into college, coming to the realization early in his junior year in college that law school sounded like a better plan than moving to L.A., potentially living out of a van, and hoping for a lucky break in the music industry.

Thankfully, after becoming a lawyer, Aaron found a new pathway to keep a foot in both worlds. The competing interests came together during a judicial clerkship in pursuit of a career in the legal industry while also wanting a new guitar.

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GGG INCREASES MISSOURI & KANSAS SUPER LAWYERS HONOREES TO 8 ATTORNEYS IN 2024

Graves Garrett Greim is pleased to announce eight of the firm's attorneys earned recognition in the 2024 edition of Missouri & Kansas Super Lawyers.



Nathan Garrett

Partners Todd Graves, Nathan Garrett, and Eddie Greim and of counsel attorney Jim Humphrey were honored as "Super Lawyers" and, notably, Garrett also made the Top 100: 2024 Missouri & Kansas

Super Lawyers list, honoring the leading practitioners in both states.

Additionally, Graves Garrett Greim partner Lucinda Luetkemeyer, of counsel Chandler Carr, and associates Matthew Mueller and Paul Brothers made the "Rising Stars" list. Mueller and Brothers were first-time honorees.

No more than 5% of the lawyers in Missouri and Kansas are selected as Super Lawyers, and no more than 2.5% of the lawyers receive the Rising Stars distinction. Super Lawyers recognizes the top lawyers in every state annually through a multiphase selection process. The mission of Super Lawyers is to bring visibility to those attorneys who exhibit excellence in their legal practice.

Graves has been selected for the honor for the past 19 consecutive years and Garrett has been recognized 15 years straight. Humphrey (12 years), Luetkemeyer (nine years), Mueller (two years), and Brothers (two years) also maintained their distinctions.

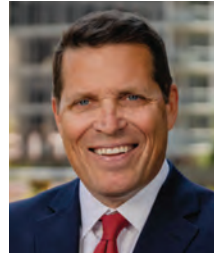
Super Lawyers, part of Thomson Reuters, is a rating service for attorneys from more than 70 practice areas who have attained a high degree of peer recognition and professional achievement. The annual selections are made using a patented multiphase process that includes a statewide survey of lawyers, an independent research evaluation of candidates, and peer reviews by practice area. The result is a credible, comprehensive, and diverse listing of exceptional attorneys. ■

11 attorneys, 8 practice areas recognized in Best Lawyers/ Best Law Firms rankings

Graves Garrett Greim (GGG) is pleased to announce 11 of the firm's attorneys earned recognition in The Best Lawyers in America 2025, a peer-reviewed guide that honors top legal professionals. This is the firm's largest-ever representation of honorees for a single year.

In addition, eight corresponding practice areas were honored in the 2025 Best Law Firms rankings with national or regional distinction.

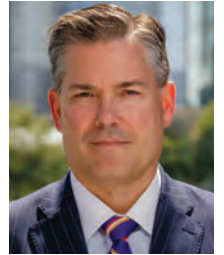
Best Lawyers honorees included partner Todd Graves making the list for the 15th straight year, partner Nathan Garrett for the 11th straight year, partner Eddie Greim for the eighth straight year, and partner Lucinda Luetkemeyer for the first time, while senior attorneys Bradley Bodamer (fourth time) and Jim Humphrey (second time at GGG) were also honored.



Todd Graves

Luetkemeyer previously garnered distinction for multiple years in Best Lawyers: Ones to Watch.

GGG counsel Chandler Carr and partner Joe McGroder, along with associates Matthew Mueller, George Lewis, and Paul Brothers, were also recognized in the guide's "Ones to Watch" category, which highlights up-and-coming attorneys. Mueller became a three-time honoree, while Carr, Lewis, and McGroder made the list for a second straight year and Brothers debuted.



Eddie Greim

Recognition in 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."

At least one GGG attorney was honored in each of the following categories:

- Commercial Litigation
- Criminal Defense: White-Collar
- Government Relations Practice
- Qui Tam Law
- Administrative/Regulatory Law
- Mass Tort Litigation/Class Actions – Defendants
- Product Liability Litigation – Defendants
- Corporate Governance and Compliance Law
- Insurance Law
- Tax Law
- Litigation – First Amendment
- Litigation – Regulatory Enforcement (SEC, Telecom, Energy)

In addition, the Best Law Firms honors included a national ranking in Regulatory Litigation for a seventh consecutive year.

The firm also maintained Kansas City Metropolitan rankings in Commercial Litigation, Criminal Defense: White-Collar, Regulatory Litigation, Government Relations, Administrative/Regulatory Law, Mass Tort Litigation/Class Actions – Defendants, and Product Liability Litigation – Defendants.

The Best Law Firms rankings are based on a rigorous evaluation process and include input from multiple sources. Firms must have an attorney ranked by Best Lawyers in America in a practice area to be considered for the rankings in that practice area. ■

GGG'S CRAIG STILL FINDING WAYS TO INDULGE BOTH OF HIS TRUE PASSIONS

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"Law clerks don't make a lot of money," he reminisces, "so I figured maybe I could build a nice acoustic guitar for around \$900 rather than spend a couple thousand on a nice factory-built Martin or Taylor at the store."

Aaron purchased a kit – mostly flat wood and associated hardware – and went to work. He still owns and plays that guitar, even though he laments the neck's too fat and the spruce top developed a crack because humidity control was not properly accounted for on the first attempt. The guitar sounded wonderful, but the imperfections led to another attempt to make a more perfect guitar ... and many more after that.

Much like in his diverse litigation practice at Graves Garrett Greim, Aaron searches for stimulating intricacies in a diverse set of hobbies and revels in a satisfying finished product.

"The bigger the challenge the better," he said.

Aaron understood and accepted the flaws of the first handmade guitar while simultaneously desiring to improve and advance his skills. He has now built a total of 11, embracing more and more specialized techniques to increase quality and meet custom specs needed for customers. Yes, Aaron takes requests and creates and sells instruments to customers. He has kept three for himself.

Having built the first solely in what he jokingly calls "a dank basement," Aaron has since built a custom guitar shop in his basement for the finer woodworking required to build an acoustic guitar and set up a workshop with larger table saws and other machinery in "his half" of the family's garage.

Aaron occasionally scours the woods for native Missouri tonewoods to use in building the guitars, having harvested native Osage orange and walnut trees. This means his recent work has included the full process of logging, processing and constructing the pieces largely from scratch.

"I enjoy roaming the woods looking for these trees," he said. "and I love the connection between those finished products and the rural Northwest Missouri farms I grew up on."

Originally meant to save money, Aaron joked that deciding to make that first "cheap" guitar led him down one of the most expensive rabbit holes of his life. His guitar building quickly became more about the art and trying to perfect the imperfectible. While probably his most time-consuming and favorite hobby, it's not his only hobby. As his wife is fond of telling him, "Your favorite hobby is really collecting hobbies," and he seems to naturally gravitate toward the demanding forms of those hobbies.

Aaron likes to fish but enjoys the demands of casting a fly. When pursuing photography, he wants to understand and utilize the right lenses and camera bodies for the setting. He and his wife enjoy beekeeping. And while he

likes woodworking generally, he enjoys the focus and precision required to make an acoustic guitar.

To support his various hobbies, Aaron continues to carve out a profile as a formidable litigator in private practice. He benefited from two different stints in large, corporate law firms, with a break in between at PEAK Litigation LLP, a co-founded boutique mostly serving as outside litigation counsel to large local companies with a national or global footprint.



Aaron Craig

Graves Garrett Greim offered him the opportunity to return to a smaller setting while establishing a diverse practice that offers him complex and unique litigation matters. Before joining the firm, he knew and held high respect for the partners and senior members of the firm, and he admired the firm's ability to engage in high-level work for a diverse group of clients while staying light and nimble.

"The firm truly brings together all of the things I love about the law," said Aaron, who earned a promotion to partner at the start of this year. "I work at a great firm with great people doing really high-level work at a national and regional level."

Aaron continues to excel at Graves Garrett Greim, building on a track record of success in beneficially resolving matters for an ever-broadening range of clients. Good litigation outcomes involve outmaneuvering opposing counsel through creative and persuasive arguments and tactics.

Like most of Aaron's interests, litigation involves learning from experience with no fear of trying something new. His mother helped spawn Aaron's passion for law – or at least his ability to make persuasive arguments. Those skills helped him excel at Creighton University School of Law.

Aaron's standout academic work in law school made him a candidate for a clerkship for the Hon. Gary A. Fenner in the U.S. District Court for the Western District of Missouri. He enjoys the challenges and relationships that accompany his complex civil litigation practice. He thrives on finding solutions to the various challenges clients face. He is also grateful to have found another creative outlet that lets him create functional art for musicians in his spare time.

Aaron recently built his two young sons ukuleles, an introductory instrument they can play alongside their father. That can include that very first guitar he built – imperfectly perfect and one-of-a-kind.

"That thing still sounds good," Aaron said. "My mom always said you argue like a lawyer. It was that or rock star. I tried both, and, not surprisingly, the law won. I wouldn't trade my life now for anything. I have an amazing family, a great career at a wonderful firm full of very talented and amazing people, and the ability to share my love of music and art in new and creative ways." ■



1100 Main Street, Suite 2700
Kansas City, MO 64105

BROTHERS EARNS UP & COMING AWARD

Graves Garrett Greim (GGG) attorney Paul Brothers recently earned a place in Missouri Lawyers Media's 2024 class of Up & Coming Lawyers award winners. Honorees include attorneys who are age 40 or younger or in their first 10 years of practice who are positively affecting the legal profession in Missouri while demonstrating the potential for significant future success.



Paul Brothers

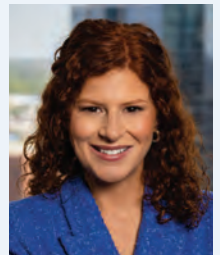
Winners were recognized during a ceremony Thursday, Oct. 10, in Fenton and profiled in a recent edition of Missouri Lawyers Weekly. This marks the eighth time in nine years a GGG attorney made the Up & Coming list.

In the profile, Brothers, 34, said he believes credibility is an attorney's most valuable asset and advises other young professionals to remain civil and professional in all proceedings. He also discussed his reasons for pursuing a career in law.

"My father is a municipal police officer," he said. "Growing up, this provided me with an up-close view of the legal system, and I always knew I wanted to pursue a career related to law and order in some capacity. After completing an internship for a local prosecutor's office during my undergraduate education, I knew I wanted to go to law school and become a lawyer." ■

LUETKEMEYER LEADS CRIMINAL LAW PANEL AT FEDERAL BAR ASSOCIATION ANNUAL MEETING

Graves Garrett Greim partner Lucinda Luetkemeyer recently moderated a panel discussion titled "Keys to Successful Federal Criminal Outcomes" at the annual meeting of the Federal Bar Association held in Kansas City.



Lucinda Luetkemeyer

The panel brought together private practitioners and a federal prosecutor to discuss the integral components of relationship building, negotiation, and consensus building among the federal criminal bar. FBA members, including judges and attorneys from the government and private practice, gathered to hear panelists discuss best practices for representing clients pre- and post-federal indictment, with a focus on discovery, negotiated outcomes, cooperation, and sentencing. The conference, hosted by the Kansas and Western District of Missouri chapters of the Federal Bar Association, featured members from around the nation and highlighted various panels and CLE programming across diverse federal practice areas. ■

GGG STRENGTHENS BENCH WITH ADDITION OF PARIS

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"Sal's familiarity with our firm's approach to handling highly visible and consequential matters in unique practice areas makes him a valuable asset to our firm," GGG partner Lucinda Luetkemeyer said. "We look forward to helping him grow and develop his advocacy skills to serve the specific needs of our clients."

Prior to his stint as a summer associate at GGG, Paris completed an internship and clerkship at two other local law firms and spent time working in the Missouri State Public Defender's Office in Columbia, Missouri. He completed his undergraduate studies in justice systems with a minor in Spanish at Truman State University.

While in law school, Paris served as a note and comment editor for the Missouri Law Review, which also published an article he authored. ■