

W. Russell Welsh

CHAIR EMERITUS

Kansas City, MO | 816.360.4342

wrwelsh@polsinelli.com



W. Russell Welsh, Chair Emeritus, guided the firm through strategic growth that positioned Polsinelli as a leading business and litigation law firm. During his over 20-year tenure as Chairman and Chief Executive Officer from 1998 through 2018, the firm increased from 90 attorneys to approximately 850 attorneys. Polsinelli was named one of the fastest growing law firms in the U.S. and is among the 100 largest firms in the nation. Under Welsh's direction, the firm's geographic presence has grown from three to 21 offices including in Atlanta, Boston, Chicago, Dallas, Denver, Houston, Los Angeles, Nashville, New York, Phoenix, San Francisco, Seattle, Silicon Valley, St. Louis and Washington, D.C.

Mr. Welsh helped direct the expansion of the firm's national practices in Financial Services, Health Care, Real Estate, Business Law, Intellectual Property, Labor & Employment, and Litigation. Polsinelli is currently nationally ranked by *Chambers USA* for Health Care and Real Estate, and the firm's Health Care practice has grown to the largest health care practice in the United States (AHLA Connections, 2018) and was also twice named Health Care Firm of the Year by US News. The firm is also ranked in the top 30 law firms for Client Service Excellence in *BTI's 2019 Client Service A-Team* analysis.

Mr. Welsh was formerly the chairman of the firm's Litigation Department. He has extensive trial experience in the areas of products liability, business torts, trade secrets, commercial and bankruptcy litigation. He has acted as national and regional counsel for a number of Fortune 100 corporations. He has tried cases in 17 states and appeared in court in 33 states and the District of Columbia. Mr. Welsh is listed in *Chambers USA* as an Eminent Practitioner in General Commercial Litigation.

Mr. Welsh's civic involvement currently includes service on the boards of directors of the United Way of Greater Kansas City, the Starlight Theatre, and the Community Foundation of Greater Kansas City. He is past Chairman of the boards of the Greater Kansas City Chamber of Commerce, the United Way of Greater Kansas City, the Starlight Theatre, and the Leukemia and Lymphoma Society, Mid-America Chapter. He also served on the boards of the Greater Kansas City Chamber of Commerce, the Civic Council of Greater Kansas City, the Leukemia and Lymphoma Society of Greater Kansas City, the Kansas City Metropolitan Bar Association, the Kansas City Area Development Council, and the Community Blood Center. He is a former chairman of an American Bar Association Products Liability Sub Committee. Mr. Welsh also served as the chair for many fundraisers

Capabilities

- Litigation

for non-profit organizations in Kansas City.

Before joining the firm, Mr. Welsh was a trial attorney for the U.S. Department of Justice, Civil Division, in Washington, D.C.

Education

- Georgetown University Law Center (J.D., 1974)
- University of Kansas (B.A., 1971)
 - with honors

Bar Admissions

- Missouri, 1974
- Kansas, 2006
- District of Columbia, 1981

Court Admissions

- United States Supreme Court
- Various U.S. District Courts and U.S. Courts of Appeals

Memberships

Civic and Charitable

- Greater Kansas City Chamber of Commerce
 - Board of Directors
 - Chairman of the Board 2012 - 2013
- Starlight Theatre
 - Board of Directors
 - Chairman of the Board 2014 - 2016
- United Way of Greater Kansas City
 - Board of Trustees
 - Chairman of the Board 2017 - 2019
- The Community Blood Center
 - Board of Director
- Kansas City Area Development Council
 - Board of Directors
- Leukemia and Lymphoma Society, 1999-2007
 - Board of Representatives, National Society, Former Member
 - Board of Trustees, Former Member
 - Mid-America Chapter, President, Board of Trustees, 2005-2007
- Kansas City, Missouri Public Improvement Advisory Committee
 - Former Member

Bar

- The Missouri Bar
- Kansas Bar Association
- Kansas City Metropolitan Bar Association
 - Board of Directors
- American Bar Association
 - Products Liability Sub Committee; Chair, 1994-1995
- The Gillis Center

- Board of Directors, Former Member
- American Board of Trial Advocates (ABOTA)

Public Company

- NASB Financial
 - Board of Directors, 1997-present

Recognition

- Eminent Practitioner in *Chambers USA: America's Leading Lawyers for Business*, Litigation: General Commercial (Kansas City & Surrounds), 2005-2006 & 2007-2017
- Ranked in *Chambers USA*, Eminent Practitioner, General Commercial, Kansas City & Surrounds (2005-2019)
- Recipient of Law Firm Leader Award in 2012, 2014 and 2018; selected by the *Missouri Lawyers Weekly* Editorial Board
- Local Litigation Star recognition by *Benchmark Litigation*, 2009-2013, 2017, 2018, 2019, 2021
- Selected for inclusion in *The Best Lawyers in America*® in the fields of:
 - Commercial Litigation, 2007-2023
 - Personal Injury Litigation - Defendants, 2007-2023
 - Product Liability Litigation - Defendants, 2007-2023
 - Litigation - Intellectual Property, 2007-2021, 2023
- AV Rated Martindale-Hubbell