



John J. DeRoss, Jr.

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When it comes to practicing law, John is a firm believer of going above and beyond—doing things the right way, and to the best of his abilities. He strives to provide steadfast advocacy and clear, open communication to achieve positive results for each and every client.

Practice Areas

Auto & TNC Liability
Construction
Dram Shop & Liquor Liability
Estate Planning & Administration
Estates, Trusts & Guardianships
Fire Loss
Food Liability
Premises Liability

Biography

John is an associate attorney in Lewis Wagner's Trusts, Estates and Probate group who concentrates his practice on litigating contested trusts, estates, guardianships, and adoption matters.

A 2017 graduate of the Indiana University Robert H. McKinney School of Law, John served on the Indiana Law Review and the Dean's Tutorial Society, and received multiple awards for high academic achievement. Prior to joining Lewis Wagner in 2021, John served as Staff Attorney and Judge Pro Tempore for the honorable Judge Michael A. Casati of Hamilton County Superior Court 1, where he had the unique opportunity to oversee matters from the bench, and gained a wealth of in-court experience, which he now utilizes in his own practice. Committed to improving his skills as an attorney, John takes an active and dedicated interest in organizations aimed at refining his legal craft. He is a member of the Litigation Skills Group for the Defense Research Institute and the Defense Trial Counsel of Indiana and is a graduate of Class XX of the IndyBar Bar Leaders Series. As a former attorney for the Indiana Department of Child Services, prosecuting cases of child abuse and neglect, John is also passionate about the interests and well-being of children throughout the Indy community and provides pro bono representation to juveniles in the child welfare system. John has previously volunteered as a coach in the Lawrence Township Boys Basketball League and with juvenile advocacy and scholastic education groups in Hamilton County and Marion County, Indiana.

John is a native of Chicago and moved to the Indianapolis area as child. He now lives in McCordsville with his wife, Amanda, a fellow Indianapolis-area attorney, and his two amazing daughters, Hannah, and Aurelia. In addition to spending time with his family, John enjoys watching Chicago Bulls basketball, listening to Bob Dylan, and reliving his guitar playing days.

Accolades, Affiliations and Activities

- Defense Research Institute
- Defense Trial Counsel of Indiana
- Hamilton County Bar Association
- Indiana State Bar Association
- Indiana University Robert H. McKinney School of Law
 - CALI Award recipient for top grade in Civil Procedure I, Civil Procedure II, Legal Analysis Research and Communication I, and Legal Analysis Research and Communication II
 - Dean's Tutorial Society
 - *Indiana Law Review* – Note Development Editor, 2016-2017
- Indianapolis Bar Association – Bar Leader Series XX, 2023
- Lawrence Township Boys Basketball League
- *Indiana Super Lawyers* – Rising Stars, 2024-2025
- Music for All

Publications and Presentations

- "Misclassification of Employees as Independent Contractors in Indiana: A State Legislative Solution," Vol. 50, No. 2, March 9, 2017.

Education and Bar Admissions

- Indiana University, B.S., 2013
 - Public and Environmental Affairs—Arts Management
 - Music Studies
- Indiana University Robert H. McKinney School of Law, J.D., *cum laude*, 2017
- Supreme Court of Indiana, 2017
- U.S. District Court, Northern District of Indiana, 2021
- U.S. District Court, Southern District of Indiana, 2021