

TOP 100 LAWYERS

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JOSEPH AWAD

Founder and Senior Partner
of Awad & Baker Law



Michael T. Yonke

Michael T. Yonke is a distinguished trial attorney and founding partner of Yonke Law, LLC, one of Kansas City's leading law firms. Known for his dedication to justice and unwavering advocacy, Mr. Yonke specializes in personal injury and medical malpractice law, where he has built a reputation for achieving successful outcomes on behalf of his clients. His career reflects not only professional skill but also a lifelong commitment to helping those in need. Mr. Yonke's path to law was shaped by his dual interests in political science and psychology, which he studied at the University of Missouri–Columbia, earning a Bachelor of Arts in 1990. He went on to obtain his Juris Doctor from the University of Missouri–Kansas City School of Law, where he distinguished himself as a member of the National Trial Advocacy Team. During this time, he gained early courtroom experience through an internship at the Jackson County Prosecutor's Office, where he assisted on serious cases, including first-degree murder and sexual assault prosecutions. These experiences honed his trial skills and fueled his passion for litigation.

Following graduation, Mr. Yonke began his legal career at his father's law firm, where he developed a strong foundation in trial practice before establishing Yonke Law, LLC. His firm quickly grew into a respected name in the region, representing clients in high-stakes cases with compassion and determination. Licensed to practice before the U.S. District Court for the District of Kansas and the U.S. District Court for the Western District of Missouri, he continues to champion the rights of individuals against powerful institutions. In addition to

his practice, Mr. Yonke has made significant contributions to the legal community. He is an active member of the American Association for Justice, the Missouri Association of Trial Attorneys, and serves on the Board of Governors of the Missouri Association of Trial Attorneys. He has shared his expertise as a lecturer on medical malpractice for the Kansas City Metropolitan Bar Association and has published legal scholarship, including the article *"High Stacked Merchandise – A Hazard in the Courtroom"* in 2006. His leadership extends beyond the courtroom into philanthropy, as the founder of the Derick Thomas Neil Smith Law Foundation, which supports local youth and promotes opportunities for the next generation.

Mr. Yonke's excellence has been recognized with numerous accolades. He has been named to the Best of the Bar by the *Kansas City Business Journal*, identified as one of the Best Lawyers in America, and consistently honored as a Missouri & Kansas Super Lawyer. He also holds the prestigious AV Preeminent Peer Review Rating from Martindale-Hubbell, a mark of the highest level of professional integrity and legal ability. Despite his demanding career, Mr. Yonke values community and family. Outside of his legal practice, he dedicates time to coaching basketball, a role that allows him to inspire and mentor young athletes. For Mr. Yonke, success is defined not only by courtroom victories but also by his ability to give back—to his clients, his community, and the youth whose futures he helps to shape.

Company
Yonke Law, LLC

Location
Kansas City,
Missouri

Title
Attorney/
Founding Attorney

Contact
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Field
Personal Injury



Jason L. Keith

Jason L. Keith, Esq., is a Senior Partner and Trial Attorney with Keith & Associates, based in Greensboro, North Carolina. A highly accomplished attorney, Mr. Keith concentrates his practice on state and federal criminal law, as well as workers' compensation and civil litigation. With a career distinguished by dedication, strategic insight, and a commitment to justice, he has earned a reputation as a trusted advocate for clients across North Carolina.

Mr. Keith earned his Juris Doctor from North Carolina Central University School of Law and his Bachelor of Science from North Carolina Agricultural and Technical State University. He is licensed to practice law in the State of North Carolina and is admitted to the United States District Courts for the Eastern and Middle Districts of North Carolina.

As the Senior Partner at Keith & Associates, Mr. Keith provides leadership and direction to the firm, guiding a team of dedicated legal professionals in delivering high-quality representation. In addition to his role at the firm, he is the founder of NexGenLaw, an innovative legal initiative designed to enhance access to justice and

A highly accomplished attorney, Mr. Keith concentrates his practice on state and federal criminal law, as well as workers' compensation and civil litigation.

empower the next generation of legal practitioners. Mr. Keith's professional achievements reflect his unwavering commitment to client advocacy, legal excellence, and community service. Passionate about basketball and giving back to his community, Mr. Keith owns a non-for-profit Basketball academy to help underprivileged children. In his free time, he enjoys playing basketball and jet skiing with his children.

Company
Keith & Associates/
NexGenLaw

Location
Greensboro, NC

Title
Attorney & Senior
Partner/Founder

Contact
nextgenlawgroup@
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Field
Multiple
Practice Areas