

Jeremiah A. Byrne

Partner

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Industries

Energy

Utilities

Practice Areas

Franchise & Distribution

Dram Shop Litigation

Fire & Explosion

Insurance Coverage & Bad Faith

Litigation

Product Liability

Product, Tort & Insurance Litigation

Tort Defense

Trial Work

Bar Memberships

Kentucky

Jeremiah is an experienced trial lawyer who concentrates his practice on tort, product liability, and commercial litigation. With decades of first-chair trial experience in multiple state and federal jurisdictions, Jeremiah leads litigation teams in defense of high exposure lawsuits with the potential to be “nuclear verdicts”. He has successfully defended hundreds of catastrophic personal injury, wrongful death, and business claims all over the country. Jeremiah represents national restaurant chains, gas and electric utility companies, product manufacturers, motor carriers, insurers, and other local, regional, and national companies.

As Co-Leader of the firm’s Product, Tort, & Insurance Litigation Practice Group, Jeremiah has over two decades of experience with all stages of litigation: leading client-focused teams for accident investigation, prelitigation dispute resolution, arbitration, pretrial discovery, trial, and appeal.

Jeremiah is often retained by excess insurance companies in the months leading up to trial as “parachute trial counsel” or monitoring counsel to assist with case evaluation, settlement valuation and negotiation, evidentiary analysis, trial strategy and preparation, and leading the trial team. He is regularly retained to help clients limit their exposure from claims ranging from large-scale disasters resulting in catastrophic injuries to residential fires and consumer product injury claims.

Jeremiah leads the firm’s national Dram Shop Litigation Team with decades of experience handling alcohol service cases all over the country. He also has significant experience litigating complex business disputes and truck wreck cases.

Jeremiah's Relevant Experience

Trial Work

Defeated Nuclear Verdict *Estate of Leonardo Camacho, et al. v. Texas Roadhouse Holdings LLC*, United States District Court for the Northern District of Georgia, Atlanta, Georgia – Served as lead trial counsel and obtained a complete defense verdict in favor of a national restaurant chain in a wrongful death and catastrophic injury dram shop lawsuit seeking a "nuclear verdict" of $47+ million in damages.

Defeated Nuclear Verdict *Estate of William Everman, et al. v. Kentucky Utilities Company,* Fayette Circuit Court, Lexington, Kentucky – Served as lead trial counsel and obtained a complete defense verdict in favor of an electrical utility company in a wrongful death electrical contact lawsuit seeking a "nuclear verdict" of $107 million in damages.

Grede Holdings, LLC v. Hitachi Automotive Systems Americas, LLC, Mercer Circuit Court, Lawrenceburg, Kentucky – Served as trial counsel and obtained judgment in favor of Grede Holdings for over $1.1 million in an automotive commercial dispute while also successfully defending Hitachi's counterclaim seeking approximately $2.7 million in damages.

Defeated Nuclear Verdict *Estate of Matthew Lane, et al. v. W.A. Kendall & Co., et al.*, Owsley Circuit Court, Booneville, Kentucky – Parachuted in and served as lead trial counsel and obtained a complete defense verdict in favor of a commercial motor carrier in a wrongful death (husband) and catastrophic amputation (wife) lawsuit seeking $70 million in damages.

Martin v. Louisville Gas and Electric Company, et al., Jefferson Circuit Court, Louisville, Kentucky– Served as lead trial counsel and obtained a defense verdict in favor of an electrical utility company in a motorcycle lawsuit seeking $4.5 million in personal injury damages.

Chris Hart v. AMK Instrument Company, Inc., Jefferson Circuit Court, Louisville, Kentucky- Served as lead trial counsel and obtained a

defense verdict on product liability claims in favor of the seller of a leveling instrument.

Vail v. Kentucky Utilities and Asplundh Tree Expert Company, Union Circuit Court, Morganfield, Kentucky– Served as lead trial counsel and obtained a defense verdict in favor of an electrical utility company and tree trimming company on property damage claims related to a tree fall accident.

Dram Shop Litigation

Wrongful Death/Serious Injury – **Georgia** – Obtained defense verdict at trial for a national restaurant chain as lead trial counsel in a dram shop lawsuit arising out of a motor vehicle accident that resulted in one death and one serious injury.

Wrongful Death/Traumatic Brain Injury – **Texas** – Successfully defended a national restaurant chain through trial as lead trial counsel in a dram shop lawsuit arising out of a motor vehicle accident that resulted in one death and one traumatic brain injury.

Wrongful Death – **Kentucky** – Won a summary judgment in favor of a national restaurant chain in a wrongful death dram shop lawsuit related to a two-death motor vehicle accident. Plaintiff sought damages in excess of $8 million.

Wrongful Death/Serious Physical Injury – **Illinois** – Successfully defended a national restaurant chain in a dram shop lawsuit stemming from a motor vehicle accident that resulted in the death of one occupant and a serious physical injury to the other.

Serious Personal Injury – **Georgia** – Obtained a dismissal for a national restaurant chain in a dram shop personal injury matter related to a motor vehicle accident.

Wrongful Death/Serious Injury – **Texas** – Defended a national restaurant chain in a dram shop claim arising from a fiery collision between two vehicles that led to the death of three individuals and serious injury to three more. Our rapid response and aggressive defense resulted in a favorable resolution of this matter for our client.

Serious Injury – **Texas** – Successfully defended a national restaurant chain in a dram shop lawsuit stemming from a motor vehicle collision with a pedestrian.

Wrongful Death – **South Carolina** – Successfully defended a national restaurant chain in a dram shop lawsuit arising out of a fatal motor vehicle collision.

Serious Injury – **New Jersey** – Defended a national restaurant chain in a dram shop lawsuit arising from a collision between two vehicles that resulted in serious injury.

Wrongful Death – **Kentucky** – Defended a national restaurant chain in a dram shop wrongful death lawsuit resulting from a collision between a moped and a semi-truck.

Wrongful Death – **Texas** – Successfully defended a dram shop wrongful death lawsuit arising from a motor vehicle striking and killing a pedestrian.

Serious Injury – **Texas** – Successfully defended a national restaurant chain in a dram shop lawsuit stemming from a single car accident resulting in a catastrophic amputation.

Serious Injury – **Indiana** – Successfully defended a national restaurant chain in a dram shop lawsuit stemming from a motor vehicle vs. building collision resulting in serious injury.

Serious Injury – **Ohio** – Successfully defended a national chain restaurant in a dram shop lawsuit arising from a motor vehicle collision resulting in multiple serious injuries.

Serious Injury – **Florida** – Successfully defended a national restaurant chain in a dram shop lawsuit stemming from a motor vehicle accident resulting in serious injury.

Serious Injury – **Arizona** – Successfully defended a national restaurant chain in a dram shop lawsuit arising from an incident wherein a vehicle drove into a home.

Other Info About Jeremiah

Experience

Estate of Kierran Lindsay and Estate of Kaden Lindsay, et al. v. Louisville Gas and Electric Company, Jefferson Circuit Court, Louisville, Kentucky – Obtained a complete dismissal of all claims against an electrical utility company in a wrongful death house fire lawsuit seeking more than $13 million in damages.

Mountain View Recreation, Inc. dba Mountain View Casino v. Imperial Commercial Cooking Equipment, et al., Nye District Court, Pahrump, Nevada – Defended product manufacturer as first-chair litigation counsel in a $35 million property damage subrogation lawsuit arising out of a catastrophic casino fire.

Estate of Tony Gray v. Brook Ledge, Inc., Fayette Circuit Court, Lexington, Kentucky – Conducted a rapid response scene investigation on the day of a fatal motorcycle v. truck incident and later obtained a complete dismissal of the wrongful death lawsuit filed against the trucking company.

Wallace Wales v. Louisville Gas and Electric Company, et al., Jefferson Circuit Court, Louisville, Kentucky – Gained summary judgment in favor of a gas and electric utility company on personal injury claims in motorcycle case seeking more than $4 million in compensatory and punitive damages.

The Estate of David Avant, et al. v. Kentucky Utilities Company, Bell Circuit Court, Pineville, Kentucky – After aggressive incident investigation and extensive pre-trial discovery, obtained summary judgment in favor of a gas and electric utility company in an electrical contact wrongful death case seeking more than $50 million in damages.

Sidi Moctar v. Yellow Cab Co. of Louisville, LLC, et al., Jefferson Circuit Court, Louisville, Kentucky – Won a Motion to Dismiss on behalf of a taxi cab company after it was sued for personal injury damages arising out of a shooting.

James Murphy v. Louisville Gas and Electric Company, United States District Court for the Western District of Kentucky – Obtained summary judgment in favor of a gas and electric utility company on wrongful death and loss of consortium claims related to a workplace accident.

Elswick v. Mizpah Hotel, LLC, Washoe District Court, Reno, Nevada– Defended the owner/operator of the historic Mizpah Hotel in Reno, Nevada, the site of an October 31, 2006 arson fire resulting in twelve deaths and over thirty injuries.

Allen v. Greenville Hotel Partners, Inc., 409 F. Supp. 2d 672 (D.S.C. 2006) – Obtained summary judgment in favor of international hotel franchise company sued by four victims of an arson fire at the Comfort Inn in Greenville, South Carolina.

Kentucky National Insurance Company v. W.M. Barr & Company, Inc. , United States District Court for the Eastern District of Kentucky– Obtained summary judgment in favor of a manufacturer of paint stripping gel in product liability action arising out of a residential fire.

Education

University of Louisville, Louis D. Brandeis School of Law, J.D., 2002, *magna cum laude*
Editor-in-Chief, *Brandeis Law Journal*
Phi Kappa Phi Honor Society

University of Kentucky, B.A., 1996

Courts

Courts of Commonwealth of Kentucky

U.S. District Courts in Kentucky

U.S. District Courts in Indiana

Sixth Circuit Court of Appeals

Second Circuit Court of Appeals

Recognition

The Best Lawyers in America®, Personal Injury Litigation — Defendants, 2025-2027

Louisville Bar Association — *Justice Martin E. Johnstone Special Recognition Award,* 2024

Selected to Kentucky Super Lawyers, 2013-2026

Professional Affiliations

International Association of Defense Counsel

Defense Research Institute (DRI)

Kentucky Bar Association

Kentucky Defense Counsel

Louisville Bar Association

Civic Activities

The Legal Aid Society, Member, Board of Directors

Firm Committees

Product, Tort, & Insurance Litigation, Practice Group Leader

Contingent Fee Committee, Member

Pro Bono Committee, Member

Recruiting Committee, former Member

Technology & Innovation Committee, former Member

Presentations

Presenter, 51st Annual International Association of Defense Counsel (IADC) Trial Academy, Palo Alto, California, August 2-8, 2025

Presenter, "Utility-Related Injuries and Fatalities: Navigating Complex Regulations and Unique Rules of Liability", Strafford, October 4, 2023

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