

JILL S. BOLLWERK

For the 21st Circuit Judicial Commission

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Dear St. Louis County Attorneys,

Hello! My name is Jill Bollwerk, and I am running for the 21st Circuit Judicial Commission (St. Louis County), and I am graciously asking for your vote. You can vote here now at <https://www.courts.mo.gov/election/ajc.nsf>. Just click on "Enter Circuit 21 Election" and follow the instructions.

I am honored to have received the endorsement of the Women Lawyers' Association of Greater St. Louis and The Mound City Bar Association. I feel that my 26 years of trying civil cases makes me qualified to help select judges in St. Louis County. In a nutshell, I believe in the Missouri Nonpartisan Court Plan, and I just want to do my part in helping the governor appoint the best judges possible. Here is a detailed listing of my experience and qualifications, if you care to know more about me.

When I was in law school at SLU in the late 80s, I was a legal secretary during the day for one of the finest trial attorneys ever to work in this state, Don Sommers, while attending law school at night. I then worked as a law clerk at the Federal Public Defender's office for my last year of law school. I tried cases when I was Rule 13 certified at the St. Louis City Juvenile court as a public defender. I went to work for a civil litigation firm right out of law school and tried my first four-day FEDERAL jury trial within the first year of being an attorney. My employer, John Weller, let me handle multiple bench trials and second chair jury trials with him.

I then went to work for another of the finest trial attorneys in town, Ted Hoffman. I started handling worker's compensation cases, but my principal role there was to try Mr. Hoffman's smaller jury cases. I picked juries and tried several cases in the City and County.

I then worked for two years as an in-house insurance defense attorney with USF&G Insurance, where I worked for one of the best woman trial lawyers in town, Robbye Toft. She hired me after I tried a case against her. Next, I worked for a construction litigation firm, Welsh & Hubble, where I was in the St. Louis County courts all the time. I helped with the firm's construction litigation cases and tried some bench trials for them, while also developing my own cases and growing my own practice.

In 2000, I had enough of my own business to start my own firm. I focused on personal injury and took auto accidents, premises cases, workers' compensation cases, Social Security cases, contract disputes.....you name it. I later partnered with my friend, Dan Ryan, and we tried some big accident and products liability cases together in St. Louis City and County. Our friend, Phil Tatlow, joined us in 2009, and we expanded our practice to add ERISA litigation. Dan no longer practices with us, but is still our very good friend. Over the last sixteen years, since starting my own firm, I have tried many jury trials in St. Louis City, St. Louis County, Jefferson County, Franklin County, and federal court. I have litigated cases that settled before trial in many other courts around the state as well. I have also tried dozens of bench trials in all of those courts, I have argued before the state and federal Appellate courts and the Labor and Industrial Relations Commission. Plus, I have handled many, many Social Security and Worker's Compensation hearings. My favorite part about my job, other than my wonderful clients, is trying cases.

I have also strived to use my law degree to better serve my community. Early in my career, I started volunteering for the BAMSL Mock Trial program as a High School Mock Trial Coach. Over many years, I coached teams from Crossroads School, Affton High School, and later, I coached the JV team at St. Louis University High School. My family volunteers for BAMSL's Motion for Kids (formerly Project Angel Tree) holiday party for disadvantaged children every year. I am a member of BAMSL's Workers' Compensation committee, formerly serving as the secretary.

I am also very active in Missouri Association of Trial Attorneys (MATA). I am a member of Missouri Trial Lawyers Care and work at the food bank and any other community events as needed. In response to the Joplin tornados, the MATA Emergency Response Team became a reality, and I was its original co-chair. In conjunction with the Red Cross, MATA's ERT mobilizes at relief centers when natural disasters strike, and volunteer attorneys give free legal advice and guidance to those affected by the natural disasters. I was humbled to receive MATA's Volunteer of the Year Award during The ERT's first year. I still work as a functioning member of the MATA ERT. I am also an active member of the Women's Lawyers section, and I serve on the Legislative Committee.

Currently, I am very excited about my involvement with Confluence of Missouri. I have been trained to mediate by the organization as a civil mediator. We as an organization are attempting to bring free and low-cost mediation services to indigent small claims litigants of St. Louis County.

Besides MATA and BAMSL, I am a member of many other organizations as well—Women Lawyer's Association of Greater St. Louis (WLA—who recently endorsed my candidacy!), American Association for Justice (AAJ), Workers' Injury Law and Advocacy Group (WILG), National Organization of Social Security Claimants' Representatives (NOSSCR), The Missouri Bar, The Illinois State Bar Association, The Lawyers Association of Greater St. Louis, and The Mound City Bar Association.

So if you read all of this---good for you! I appreciate it! To learn more about the Missouri Nonpartisan Court Plan, visit this site: <https://www.courts.mo.gov/page.jsp?id=297>

Sincerely, Jill S. Bollwerk