



Russ Jones

## 2024 KCMBF President: Russ Jones, Servant Leader.

If you don't know Russ, odds are you have heard of him – he is seemingly everywhere! But what many may not have realized is the reason he is everywhere: he is a dedicated servant leader who is passionate about Kansas City, the legal profession, and giving back to the community. In each of his leadership roles, Russ has demonstrated he is no egomaniac. Russ takes his commitment to prioritizing the greater good seriously. He is a collaborative leader who works to engage others and is quick to give others credit for their contributions.

This may be why Russ has served in too many leadership positions to note in this one article. Those of you who are active with the KCMBF likely know he has been a dedicated volunteer for the Kansas City Metropolitan Bar Association for decades – serving in numerous roles including as KCMBF President in 2016. And after his many years of service and leadership with the KCMBF, he could have justifiably rested on his laurels and focused on his family and busy practice. But that is just not who he is.

Since his KCMBF Presidency, Russ has stayed busy serving and leading. In addition to his leadership roles within our firm and his service through numerous community organizations, Russ has spent countless volunteer hours working to improve the leadership and services provided by state and local bars through his work with the National Conference of Bar Presidents (NCBP). And, consistent with his recognized leadership ability, he even spent three years serving on the NCBP's Leadership Council, where he was instrumental in crafting substantive programming and events at its national conferences. That's right folks, he was one of the leaders of the leaders – serving those leaders to help them best serve others.



And he did all of this while also maintaining an active trial practice and spending time with his growing (and geographically diverse) family. Russ and his wife Susan are the proud parents of Hillary, Lindsey, and Libby. Hillary and her husband Anthony Castiglia live in Phoenix, Arizona with their 4-year-old son Graham. Lindsey (a lawyer with Ropes & Gray) lives in Burlington, Vermont with her husband Dan Jacobs (also a lawyer) and their 3-month-old daughter Evangeline. While their youngest, Libby, lives closer by with her husband Ross Merrill, she too has a busy schedule as an in-house attorney with SelectQuote, Inc.

Despite the many long hours he dedicates here at Polsinelli and to his family, it is no surprise to me that he is now giving more of his time to serve as the KCMBF President. KCMBF's mission is to serve the community by creating and supporting public service or educational programs which promote the administration of justice, delivery of legal services, professional development or respect of the law. With his experience in leadership at the KCMBF and the NCBP, Russ is uniquely qualified to lead the Foundation as it pursues this mission – one which he clearly shares.

I am excited to see what wonderful things he and the Bar Foundation Board accomplish this year, and I am grateful for Russ's willingness to serve and to lead. I hope you, like me, are inspired to recommit yourself to serving others as Russ has done and will undoubtedly do as long as he is able. ■



### About the Author

**Lauren Tucker McCubbin**, Shareholder, Vice Chair of Commercial Litigation, Polsinelli. In recognition of her leadership and dedication to the legal profession, Lauren was voted in as the 2022-2023 president of The Missouri Bar.

# KCMBF

Kansas City Metropolitan Bar Foundation



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Michelle Jakobe

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