

SUTTER O'CONNELL ATTORNEYS

Kevin W. Kita
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Kevin Kita's career has focused on defending the interests of manufactures, insurers, and businesses in all aspects of civil litigation. He has first-chaired numerous jury trials, appeared as trial counsel in five different states, and obtained favorable jury verdicts at both the state and federal level. Kevin is also a member of the firm's appellate practice group and has successfully handled appellate cases before Ohio's Sixth, Ninth and Tenth District Courts of Appeal, the United States Sixth Circuit Court of Appeals, and the Ohio Supreme Court. Though experienced in a wide variety of legal matters, Kevin focuses his practice primarily in the areas of bad faith insurance defense, products liability, and warranty defense.

Kevin's achievements as a litigator and trial counsel have been recognized throughout the community. He has been selected as a contributing author to the LexisNexis Practice Guide: New Appleman Ohio Insurance Law, since 2016. In addition to his growing litigation practice, Kevin is an adjunct professor at The University of Akron School of Law where he is in charge of the mock trial competition program. In that capacity, he has coached the University of Akron to six regional championships (2012, 2014, 2016, 2017, 2018, 2019), two national championships – including the first ever National Online Trial Advocacy Competition during the COVID-19 pandemic – and three consecutive national runner-up finishes (Spring 2018, Fall 2018, Spring 2019).

Kevin also serves as a lead instructor at the law school's annual summer trial practice academy since the program was founded in 2015.

Education

John Carroll University, B.S., 2006
The University of Akron School of Law, J.D.,
cum laude, 2011

Associations

Cleveland Metropolitan Bar Association
Akron Bar Association
Ohio State Bar Association
Defense Research Institute

Awards & Recognition

Super Lawyers Rising Star, 2014 - 2021
Top Attorneys – Outstanding Young Lawyers in
Cleveland and Columbus, 2014-2021

Practice Areas

Appellate
Civil Rights & Government Liability
Insurance Coverage
Products Liability

Representative Matters

Successful defense of an insurance company in federal court against a post-settlement discovery action seeking a basis for contribution and indemnification. Court found in favor of defense legal arguments limiting plaintiff's expansive request for pre-suit discovery, ultimately resulting in dismissal.

Breach of warranty and consumer protection action filed by consumers alleging their vehicle contained a latent defect causing it to experience a steering pull which was not corrected in a timely manner. Directed verdict returned in favor of client auto manufacturer.

Admissions

California
Kentucky
Michigan
Ohio

United States District Courts

Northern District of Ohio
Southern District of Ohio
Eastern District of Arkansas
Eastern District of Kentucky
Western District of Kentucky

Community

Adjunct Professor at the University of Akron School of Law – Head of the Mock Trial Competition Program