

Michael A. Wolff

Professor *Emeritus* and Former Dean, Saint Louis University School of Law
Judge, Chief Justice, Supreme Court of Missouri, retired

Contact information:

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BIOGRAPHICAL SUMMARY

MICHAEL A. WOLFF is an attorney, former Missouri Supreme Court judge and chief justice, and professor *emeritus* and former dean of Saint Louis University Law School. He currently works as a mediator, consults on cases, legal ethics matters and criminal justice reform, and teaches occasionally at St. Louis University School of Law.

Wolff served for 13 years on the Supreme Court of Missouri, 1998 to 2011, including two years as chief justice 2005 to 2007. He returned to the Saint Louis University faculty in 2011 and became dean of the law school in 2013, serving until 2017.

His honors include Lawyer of the Year (Missouri Lawyers Weekly), the Missouri Bar's Theodore McMillian Judicial Excellence Award; the William J. Brennan Jr. Memorial Lecture on State Courts and Social Justice, New York University; Benjamin N. Cardozo Award for Judicial Courage and Excellence (Missouri Association of Criminal Defense Lawyers), the Donald P. Lay Champion for Justice Award Supreme Courters Ep

Denver and Rapid City SD (where he served as director) before joining the Saint Louis University law faculty in 1975.

While on the law faculty the courses he taught included Civil Procedure, Constitutional Law, Administrative Law, Criminal Sentencing, Legislation, State Constitutional Law, Trial Advocacy, Health Law, Legal Profession (Ethics) and the Lawyering Process. He was principal author of FEDERAL JURY PRACTICE AND INSTRUCTIONS (Devitt, Blackmar, Wolff & O'Malley) in the 1980s, as well as numerous other publications.

the National Courts and Science Institute (NCSI), which provides science education to judges. In St. Louis Wolff is on the board of trustees of the Missouri Historical Society (Missouri History Museum in Forest Park), and was on the board of trustees of the Saint Louis Public Library Foundation. He was senior advisor and transition director for St. Louis County

Secondary academic appointments: Assistant Professor in the Department of Community Medicine, Saint Louis University School of Medicine, 1978-1998. Lectured on legal problems in medical practice, law and medical ethics. Also on faculty of School of Public Health, St. Louis University.

Visiting Professor, Sichuan University, Peoples Republic of China, May-June, 1989.

Practice: From June 1, 1981 to August 15, 1982, engaged in full time law practice, while on leave from the University, with a firm that specializes in litigation. Maintained limited trial practice during teaching career, primarily in cases on health care law, constitutional issues, and employment.

Director, Black Hills Legal Services, Rapid City, South Dakota. September 1973 to August 1975. Duties included representing low-income clients, management of eight-person staff, planning, fiscal responsibility, supervision and training of lawyers.

Attorney, Legal Aid Society of Metropolitan Denver, Denver, Colorado. Director of research and litigation, January 1973 to June 1973; from September through December 1972, was a VISTA lawyer in the research and litigation division. As division director, was responsible for coordinating major litigation in the 35-lawyer program.

Attorney, Legal Assistance of Ramsey County, Saint Paul, Minnesota. August 1971 to September 1972. Specialized in major litigation and law reform activities.

Law clerk, U.S. District Judge Miles W. Lord, Minneapolis, Minnesota, August 1970 to August 1971.

Reporter, copy editor, *The Minneapolis Star*, (now *The Star Tribune*) Minneapolis, Minnesota. 1967-1970. General assignment reporter and copy editor while attending law school.

EDUCATION

University

Dartmouth College, Hanover, New Hampshire. Bachelor of Arts degree, 1967, government major. Editor-in-chief and Chairman of the Board of THE DARTMOUTH, the student daily newspaper. Member of junior and senior honorary societies. Full scholarship.

Sturgeon Smithson Award, The Missouri Bar Foundation, 2013, an award for

2014.

Employment Lawyers Association, Eighth Circuit, 2012.

Association of Criminal Defense Lawyers, 2011.

Lecturer, 14th Annual Justice William J. Brennan, Jr. Memorial Lecture on State
-Based Judicial Discretion: Promoting Public

February 2008.

MISSOURI LAWYER S WEEKLY, 2007.

Distinguished Non-Alumnus Award, University of Missouri Law School, 2007.

James C. Kirkpatrick Award, Northwest Missouri Press Association, 2007.

Association, 2006.

Judges, 2006.

Resto ~~Justice Award, Center for Women In Transition, St. Louis, 2005~~

National Courts and Science Institute (NCSI), board member. NCSI provides science education to judges, and is successor to ASTAR, where he was an ASTAR fellow and national board member. (Past)

The Constitution Project, serving on its Committee on Policing Reforms and Death Penalty Committee (Past)

Missouri Historical Society (Missouri History Museum in Forest Park), member, board of trustees. (Current)

Saint Louis Public Library Foundation, member, board of trustees. (Past)

The Missouri Bar, American Bar Association, and Lawyers Association of St. Louis, Bar Association of Metropolitan St. Louis. (Current)

Is There Life After Conception? State Courts, State Law, and the Mandate of Arbitration, 56 St. Louis U. Law J. 1269 (Summer 2012)

Exploring Judicial Behaviors in the Laboratories of Democracy, 83 *Judicature* 267 (March-April 2000).

Ted McMillian: The Happy Coincidence of Timing, Talent, and Persistence, 43 *St. Louis University Law Journal* 1297 (1999).

FEDERAL JURY PRACTICE AND INSTRUCTIONS, (with Devitt, Blackmar and O'Malley) (West Pub. 4th ed.) 1987 (Volume 3) and 1992 (Volume 1); also, *Supplement*, and *Cumulative Supplement*, for 1985, 1986, 1987, 1988, 1989, 1990 and 1991.

Health Reform in Missouri (co-author), *St. Louis Bar Journal*, Fall 1993, at 32.

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