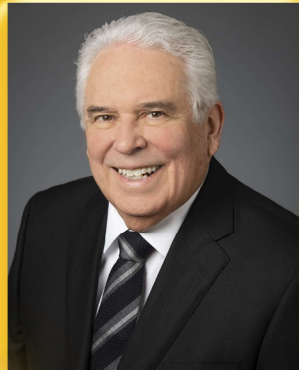


Dean of the Trial Bar

JOHN M. EDGAR



When hearing the news that my father, John M. Edgar, was receiving the Dean of the Trial Bar award I was elated. John has been giant in the Kansas City

legal community for well over 50 years, and with well over 100 trials under his belt. His dedication to the practice of law and the art of trying a case is unsurpassed. It is a special honor that is certainly well-deserved.

John attended the University of Kansas studying business and accounting, and had planned on a career as a CPA. He then became intrigued with the idea of attending law school and was accepted to University of Missouri-Kansas City School of Law, where he graduated in 1968.

John went on to initially work at what was then Stinson, Mag & Fizzell. No surprises here, but it was old school to say the least. Attorneys were required to be at the office on Saturday mornings, at their desks, in suits. John's practice began in real estate and bonds, but quickly realized that litigation and trials were better suited for him.

After practicing at Stinson, John went on to open the Kansas City office of what was then Bryan Cave. Starting with only two associates, within a short 7 years, the Bryan Cave office in Kansas City grew to over 100 attorneys. John served as the Kansas City Managing Partner, as well as serving on the firm's Executive Committee and Managing Committee.

John's work also extended extensively into Kansas City community endeavors. John served as a founding Co-Chairman of the Kansas City Area Life Sciences Institute, Chairman of the Economic Development Corporation of Kansas City, Board of Directors of the Civil Council, Board of Directors of the Kansas City Symphony, and served with countless other civic, non-profits, and charities.

I know for a fact that one of John's proudest moments was founding Edgar Law Firm LLC 20 years ago in 2002, with his two sons, me and David. Throughout the 20 years of Edgar Law Firm, as well as his prior firms, John has mentored hundreds of attorneys, many of whom have gone on to achieve prominence in their respective legal careers.

David and I grew up watching John try cases. Since kindergarten, my mother would drive us downtown to the Jackson County

Courthouse or the federal courthouse to see his closing arguments. It was always a proud moment for everyone.

Despite being a busy trial lawyer, firm management, and civic responsibilities, John always made time for family. Yes, he was the guy on vacation, on his cell phone, on a hiking trail in the Rocky Mountain National Park. But, he was also the father who made it home to play catch with his sons before bedtime, most oftentimes still in his knee-high black dress socks, along.



John M. Edgar, John F. Edgar, and David W. Edgar.

I still fondly recall him leaving a months long trial in federal court in Wichita on the eve of closing arguments to drive up for my high school graduation in 1987, then drive back that evening to prepare, leaving my mother to oversee 400 or so graduating high school seniors in our backyard for the graduation party.

Despite a nationwide practice, John was always at home in the Kansas City legal community. He believed, as do many attorneys, that the practice of law here is very unique. John believed that the cordial relationship between both plaintiff and defense counsel, as well as the close relationship with the judiciary, was unique to Kansas City, and something that you rarely see elsewhere in the country. He attributed these

cordial relationships in the bar to the KCMBA, and events like the Bench-Bar & Boardroom Conference.

He served on the Board of KCMBA for years, eventually being elected President of the organization in 2002. He has always encouraged other attorneys to be involved in KCMBA, stressing that the relationships you make in the organization would endure for decades through an attorney's career.

I know John is honored to receive the Dean of the Trial Bar Award. And, it is even more special to him since this is the 50th Anniversary of the Bench-Bar and Boardroom Conference. Congratulations to my father and partner, John M. Edgar. ■

About the Author



John F. Edgar, is a partner with Edgar Law Firm LLC. For over 26 years, John has maintained a nationwide practice in the area of commercial litigation and class actions.