



VANESSA H. GROSS

Partner

Phone Number: 816.701.1163

Email: vgross@wcllp.com

4740 Grand Avenue Suite 300
Kansas City, MO 64112

In Brief

- **Partner of Wagstaff + Cartmell LLP**
- **Received largest reported compensatory damages award for a wrongful death case tried in the State of Kansas**
- **Successfully tried both plaintiff and defense cases to verdict**
- **Represented hundreds of injured plaintiffs in pharmaceutical and/or product liability cases**

Vanessa Gross devotes her practice to civil trial work, splitting her time between the representation of plaintiffs and the representation of defendants. Vanessa routinely handles complex cases in state and federal courts and has successfully tried both plaintiff and defense cases to verdict.

On the plaintiff's side, Vanessa focuses her practice on representing individuals and families of individuals who have suffered personal injuries and/or wrongful death. In addition to single-plaintiff cases, she has represented hundreds of clients involved in complex pharmaceutical and medical device actions throughout the country. Such work has included representation of clients who have been injured by products such as Talcum Powder, Roundup, Zantac/Ranitidine, and Pelvic Mesh Repair System products.

On the defense side, Vanessa represents hospitals, doctors, nurses, dentists, and other healthcare providers in malpractice matters. In addition to cases in active litigation, she represents physicians in matters pending before the Kansas State Board of Healing Arts and the Missouri Board of Registration for the Healing Arts and represents dentists before their respective Dental Boards.

Vanessa's experience also includes appellate work, including briefing before the appellate courts in both Kansas and Missouri, as well as oral argument before the Missouri Court of Appeals.

Notable Litigation

\$6.7 Million Plaintiff Verdict

At the conclusion of trial, Jon Kieffer, Vanessa Gross and Adam Davis obtained a \$6,723,021.00 damages award on behalf of the family of a young woman who had been killed in a two-vehicle collision. The case was filed by the surviving husband on behalf of himself and their three young children. The defendants in the case were the driver of the other vehicle, as well as the driver's parents and their oil company. Wagstaff & Cartmell successfully argued that the other driver was negligent in the operation of his vehicle at the time of the collision.

The attorneys prevailed on their assertion that the other driver's parents, who owned the vehicle, were negligent for allowing him to drive their car because they knew or should have known of his driving record. They made a successful claim that the parents' oil company should be held liable because the accident occurred while the driver was in the course and scope of work for the company. As a result, they succeeded on all claims: Negligence, negligent entrustment, agency, and alter ego. Survival, wrongful death, and Wrongful death damages were awarded.

The \$6,723,021.00 award is believed to be the largest reported compensatory damages award in a wrongful death case tried in Kansas, the largest reported negligent entrustment award in Kansas, and the largest reported "alter-ego" damages award in the state of Kansas.

Defense Verdict – Hip Replacement Medical Malpractice

Vanessa H. Gross and her partner successfully defended a local orthopedic surgeon in a jury trial in which the plaintiff alleged that negligent placement of a component during a total hip replacement surgery caused subsequent dislocations and revision surgeries. After a four-day trial, a Johnson County, Kansas jury returned a verdict in favor of the client.



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Practice Areas

Vanessa handled cases in appellate practice, healthcare & professional liability and mass actions & personal injury. She knows, the key to any boutique trial law firm is its appellate practice, and we are uniquely positioned to offer appellate expertise to clients. Vanessa represents leading hospital systems, physician groups, individual doctors and other healthcare professionals in malpractice cases in every area of medicine. Vanessa has built a national reputation handling some of the nation's largest and most challenging mass actions and achieving highly regarded results along the way.

Her practice area has:

- Proudly represented Kansas City institutions
- Expertise across the entire healthcare field
- Midwest leader in healthcare defense cases
- Recovered billions of dollars on behalf of clients
- Achieved historic results in catastrophic injury and wrongful death suits
- Regularly appointed to leadership positions in MDLs nationwide

Prior Work Experience

TBD

Education

- J.D., Vanderbilt University Law School, 2008
- B.A., University of Florida, 2005

Professional Organizations

- [Kansas Bar Association](#)
- [Missouri Bar Association](#)
- [Kansas City Metropolitan Bar Association](#)

Admissions

- [Kansas](#)
- [Missouri](#)
- [U.S. District Court, District of Kansas](#)
- [U.S. District Court, Western District of Missouri](#)

Honors and Awards

- TBD