



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. She routinely handles complex cases in both state and federal courts and has successfully tried both plaintiff and defense cases to verdict.

Vanessa currently focuses her practice on the plaintiff's side, 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 mass tort actions throughout the country, including complex pharmaceutical actions, medical device actions, product liability actions, and other actions involving toxic torts. Such work has included representation of clients who have been injured by Pelvic Mesh Repair System products, Chemical Hair Relaxers/Straightening Products, Talcum Powder, Xarelto, Zantac, and Roundup. She also represents individuals who have been injured by contaminated water at Marine Corps Base Camp Lejeune.

For the first decade of her practice, Vanessa represented hospitals, doctors, nurses, dentists, and other healthcare providers in malpractice matters. She also represented physicians in matters pending before the Kansas State Board of Healing Arts and the Missouri Board of Registration for the Healing Arts and represented dentists before their respective Dental Boards.

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

Vanessa grew up in Jacksonville, Florida, attended the University of Florida for her undergraduate degree, and then attended Vanderbilt University Law School. Following law school, she moved to Kansas City and began working for Wagstaff & Cartmell. After 14 years in Kansas City, Vanessa returned to her hometown of Jacksonville, Florida. She continues to work for Wagstaff & Cartmell and to represent clients from around the nation.

Notable Litigation

\$2.5M JURY VERDICT IN FLORIDA PELVIC MESH TRIAL

Brandon Henry, Sarah Ruane, Vanessa Gross, and Nate Jones obtained a \$2.5 million verdict against Coloplast, Corp. following a jury trial in the United States District Court, Middle District of Florida. The jury found that Coloplast's Novasilk pelvic mesh device, which was used to treat pelvic organ prolapse, was defectively designed, that Coloplast failed to warn of the risks of the Novasilk mesh device, and also that Coloplast negligently misrepresented and fraudulently concealed material facts, causing injury to their client. This is the first jury verdict in the country against Coloplast Corp. for claims involving the Novasilk device.

\$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.



VANESSA H. GROSS

Partner

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 Wentling 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.

Practice Areas

Appellate Practice
Healthcare and Professional Liability
Mass Actions & Personal Injury

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](#)
[Jacksonville Justice Association](#)

Admissions

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