



DOUGLAS HAUN HEIDEMANN ^PC

QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER - SPRING 2019

\$20 million top plaintiffs' judgment largest in Missouri in 2018; Heidemann, Duncan, Allen recognized

A \$20 million judgment in a case filed by Douglas, Haun and Heidemann, P.C. against a former Kanakuk director has been ranked the largest reported plaintiff's judgment in Missouri for 2018. Attorneys Craig Heidemann, Nathan Duncan and Nick Allen filed the case on December 7, 2015 and the final judgment was issued by a Christian County circuit judge on March 20, 2018.

Heidemann, Duncan and Allen were recognized at an awards banquet on January 25 in St. Louis. The banquet, hosted by Missouri Lawyers Media, showcased the top verdicts and settlements for Missouri law firms in 2018 based on the publication's database.

In the complaint, Heidemann, Duncan and Allen alleged a former director of a summer camp had sexually abused dozens of minors. "This case was about standing up for personal rights of many young children who could not protect themselves," said Heidemann. "It was about doing what was right. No one, especially innocent children, should be subjected to this personal abuse." Heidemann, and Duncan, both DHH partners, specialize in the areas of class actions, personal injury, wrongful death, employment law, as well as civil rights.

The firm has recovered more than \$138 million for clients since 1996.



Above - Nathan Duncan, Nick Allen and Craig Heidemann with their awards at the Missouri Lawyers Media banquet in January.

Heidemann and Duncan were recognized in 2018 for obtaining a \$61 million national class action settlement, recognized as the largest settlement reported in Missouri for 2017.

Douglas, Haun & Heidemann has served as class counsel on multiple occasions and is currently working on several other projects to protect consumers. DHH has offices located in Bolivar and Springfield and can be reached at 417-326-5261, 1-800-743-5728 or online at www.dhhlawfirm.com

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Douglas Receives Highest Rating in Martindale-Hubbell Peer Review Rating System



Martindale-Hubbell recently recognized K. Patrick (Pat) Douglas as an AV® rated attorney, the highest such rating available to any individual lawyer. Law firms are given the rating of the highest rated individual attorney.

The Martindale-Hubbell Peer Review Ratings system is based on the confidential opinions of members of the Bar and the Judiciary, including both those who are rated and those who are not. Martindale-Hubbell representatives conduct personal interviews to discuss lawyers under review with other members of the Bar. A compilation of these opinions from various sources is necessary to form a consensus, and lawyers under review are sometimes asked to provide professional references to assist with the process. In addition, confidential questionnaires are sent to lawyers and judges in the same geographic location and/or area of practice as the lawyer being rated. Members of the Bar are instructed to assess their colleague's legal ability and general ethical standards.

There are two components to each Martindale-Hubbell Peer Review Rating:

1. Legal Ability Ratings - Legal Ability Ratings take into consideration the standard of professional ability in the area where the lawyer practices, the lawyer's expertise, and other professional qualifications. If a lawyer's practice is limited or specialized, Peer Review Ratings are based on performance in those specific fields of law. Legal Ability Ratings are: C – Good

to High B – High to Very High A – Very High to Preeminent

2. General Ethical Standards Rating -The General Ethical Standards Rating denotes adherence to professional standards of conduct and ethics, reliability, diligence and other criteria relevant to the discharge of professional responsibilities. The General Recommendation Rating is: V – Very High. A lawyer will not receive a Legal Ability Rating unless he or she has been endorsed for a "V."

When both categories of Peer Review Ratings are confirmed, a lawyer receives an CV, BV or AV Rating.

- CV Peer Review Rating – an excellent first Rating and a statement of a lawyer's above average ability and very high ethics.
- BV Peer Review Rating – an indication of an exemplary reputation and well-established practice. A typical lawyer is in mid-career, with a significant client base and high professional standing.
- AV Peer Review Rating – shows that a lawyer has reached the height of professional excellence. He or she has usually practiced law for many years and is recognized for the highest levels of skill and integrity.



Pat Douglas is a shareholder of Douglas, Haun and Heidemann, P.C., concentrating his practice in the areas of estate planning, trusts, probate, real estate, corporate and business law, banking and collections. Pat has significant experience drafting trusts, wills, powers of attorney and other estate planning documents, as well as drafting, negotiating and reviewing agreements and leases.

If you would like more information on estate planning or business and commercial law, contact DHH at 417-326-5261, 1-800-743-5728 or online at www.dhhlawfirm.com