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Rodney H. (Rod) Nichols

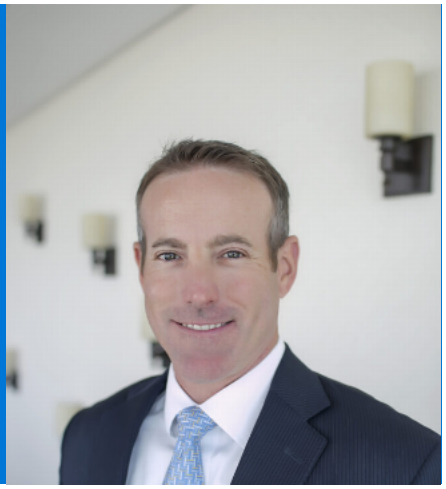
Partner

Contact

Springfield

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Overview

Rodney Nichols is a partner in the firm's Banking and Financial Services group and assists lenders with structuring, documenting, and enforcing complex commercial and real estate loans of all types. With more than 25 years of experience, Rodney is able to help lenders and businesses alike navigate the intricate nature of commercial and real estate financing, including debt restructuring, workouts, and reorganizations both inside and outside of bankruptcy.

In addition to handling all aspects of commercial and real estate lending, Rodney also assists financial institutions with various aspects of general banking and deposit operations, and received national attention for successfully defending – in federal court- a financial institution whose online banking security systems were challenged following a fraudulent wire transfer. This was the first reported case in the U.S. where the financial institution prevailed in establishing the soundness of its online banking security under the Uniform Commercial Code.

Rodney is the former chairman and vice chairman of the Bank Counsel Section of the Missouri Bankers Association and remains a member of its Advisory Board. Having this leadership experience and knowledge of the industry, he regularly speaks on current legal issues and trends that impact financial institutions.

Apart from financial services, Rodney handles commercial and real estate litigation, including appeals, in both state and federal courts. Having handled litigation involving contracts, construction, real estate and trust disputes, Rodney's experience in court is wide-ranging and helps him better assist clients in the early stages of transactions to avoid litigation down the road or to better protect the client's interest should disputes arise. Rodney served as an appointed member of the Federal Practice Committee for the U.S. District Court for the Western District of Missouri and is a former chairman of the Springfield Metropolitan Bar Association's Federal Bench and Bar Committee as well as it Commercial Law and Insolvency Committee.

Education

- University of Tulsa College of Law, 1996 (J.D.)
- Missouri State University, 1992 (B.A.)

Bar Admissions

- Missouri

Court Admissions

- U.S. District Court for the Western District of Missouri
- U.S. District Court for the Eastern District of Missouri
- U.S. Court of Appeals for the Eighth Circuit

Community Involvement

- Good Samaritan Boys Ranch, Board Member
- Developmental Center of the Ozarks, Former Chairman of the Board
- Springfield / Greene County Library Board of Trustees, Former Member
- City of Springfield, Jordan Valley Park Tax Abatement and Tax Increment Financing Commission, Former Member
- Ozark Greenways, Former Board Member
- James River Basin Partnership, Former Member

Distinctions

- *Best Lawyers in America*, Banking and Finance Law; Real Estate Law, 2026-2027
  - Lawyer of the Year, Real Estate Law, 2026
- *Springfield Business Journal*, Trusted Adviser, 2022
- *Missouri and Kansas Super Lawyers*, Banking, 2013-2017
- *Missouri and Kansas Super Lawyers,* Rising Stars, Banking, 2008-2009
- *Springfield Business Journal*, 40 Under 40, 2003

Memberships

- Springfield Metropolitan Bar Association
- American Bar Association
- Missouri Bar Association
- Missouri Bankers Association
- American Bankruptcy Institute

Related Experience

- Represented the primary construction lender on a $93 million dollar hotel and convention center construction project in large mixed-use development.
- Represented the primary construction lender on a $36 million dollar senior living and care facility development.
- Represented the primary construction lender on a $30 million dollar senior living and care facility development.
- Represented the primary construction lender on a $22 million dollar senior living and care facility development.
- Successfully defended a financial institution and its subsidiary against claims involving their real estate foreclosure practices and procedures by obtaining summary judgment and avoiding trial.

- Successfully represented beneficiaries of a trust, at trial level and on appeal, in litigation against its trustee arising from mishandling of trust assets.
- Successfully represented corporation, at trial level and on appeal, in enforcing restrictive covenants against former officer and sales representative, obtaining injunctive relief and monetary damages for breach of contract, and misappropriation of computer data.