



SAMIR B. DAHMAN

Partner in Charge, Columbus

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Samir holds multiple roles at KJK, contributing significantly to the firm's operations and strategic goals. As Co-Chair of the Litigation Practice Group and Partner in Charge of the Columbus office, he leads his teams to deliver outstanding client service and operational efficiency by optimizing service delivery, training, performance, resource allocation, IT integration, thought leadership, and recruiting. As an attorney, he resolves issues in commercial litigation, business law, estate planning, and employment for businesses, owners, and individuals. Known for providing exceptional, client-focused legal services, Samir takes a sincere and serious approach to addressing his clients' concerns.

As a testament to his client-focused approach, Samir was selected as one of the Top 5 Lawyers in Columbus and Top 100 Lawyers in Ohio, received Columbus Business First's "Forty Under 40" award, has been repeatedly listed as one of the "Top Lawyers" in Columbus by *Columbus CEO Magazine*, and has been selected to the Super Lawyers or Rising Stars lists by *Super Lawyer magazine*, annually since 2012.

He was an adjunct professor at The Ohio State University Moritz College of Law where he taught concepts in drafting and negotiating purchase agreements for privately held companies.

Samir's litigation practice encompasses multi-jurisdictional, complex commercial disputes, such as his role as lead counsel in the successful resolution of a \$6.3 million combined breach of a sales representative agreement and construction dispute pending in U.S., Canadian, and Mexican federal courts. Samir is well-versed in partnership and closely-held company shareholder, FLSA, harassment, class-action, trade secret, and competition litigation. Samir frequently defends companies in Federal, state, and local government investigations.

Samir and his cases sometimes attract media attention, with him contributing to or his high-profile cases being covered by *ESPN*, *CBS Sports*, *Law360*, *Columbus Business First*, *The Columbus Dispatch*, *The Lantern*, *97.1 The Fan*, and *WTKA*.

During law school, Samir served as an extern for Magistrate Judge Mark R. Abel of the United States District Court for the Southern District of Ohio.

Active in his community, Samir and his wife founded The Berkshire Triathlon, a 501(c)(3) charity, which raised around \$250,000 for children with serious

illnesses in Central Ohio. This funding has significantly benefited Flying Horse Farms, Nationwide Children's Hospital, and the Ronald McDonald House.

EDUCATION

- Ohio State University
Moritz College of Law,
J.D., 2007
- University of
Michigan, B.A.,
Economics, 2002

PRACTICE AREAS

- Corporate &
Securities
- Employment &
Severance
Negotiations
- Estate, Wealth &
Succession
Planning
- Health Care
- Labor &
Employment
- Litigation &
Arbitration

BAR/COURT ADMISSIONS

- Ohio
- Michigan
- U.S. Court of
Appeals, Sixth
Circuit
- U.S. District Court,
Southern District of
Ohio
- U.S. District Court,
Northern District of
Ohio
- U.S. District Court,
Eastern District of
Michigan
- U.S. District Court,
Western District of
Michigan

REPRESENTATIVE EXPERIENCE

- Essentially vacated a judgment by the City of Columbus against a property owner preserving \$10+ million in equity.
- Obtained preliminary injunction in a \$20+ million real estate partnership dispute pending in multiple jurisdictions, which facilitated a favorable resolution, providing stability and security and allowing the partnership's operations to thrive free and clear of outside interference.
- Lead counsel in successful representation of Chris Spielman in a putative name, image, and likeness class action against IMG College and Ohio State University in federal court.
- Lead counsel in two-week jury trial defending family business and its CEO against sexual harassment claims by six plaintiffs, facing liability of more than \$3 million; obtained an outcome essentially awarding one plaintiff just \$16,000.
- Organized, merged, acquired, restructured, and divested dozens of privately-held companies in the technology, outsourcing, marketing, medical, manufacturing and services industries
- Established estate plans for numerous families in Ohio and Michigan, including revocable trusts, wills, powers of attorney, foreign beneficiaries and guardians, and other supporting documents

- Obtained \$5.6 million for squeezed-out partner who did not even have a written partnership agreement in an allegedly un-named entity and who had previously provided sworn statements that he was not a partner.
- Prevailed in bet-the-company litigation by obtaining complete defense verdict following preliminary injunction in federal court on behalf of small business accused of trademark, trade dress, and copyright infringement; breach of contract; misappropriation of trade secrets; Ohio Deceptive Trade Practices Act, unfair competition, tortious interference with business, and unjust enrichment
- Successfully resolved \$6.3 million combined breach of sales representative agreement and construction dispute pending in U.S., Canadian and Mexican federal courts
- Prevailed in bench trial in \$3.8 million breach of settlement agreement action against national bank, and was awarded \$120,000 in legal fees
- Settled \$2.6 million lawsuit filed in federal court by one of the largest law firms in the Midwest for violations of trade secret, non-compete, and tortious interference laws
- Achieved successful resolution of \$2.4 million joint venture dispute pending in multiple jurisdictions
- Prevailed at week-long jury trial on behalf of business by obtaining \$42,000 in breach of contract action, while obtaining directed verdict on adversary's fraud and conversion claims and a verdict throwing out adversary's \$650,000 breach of contract and trade secret misappropriation claims
- Serves as outside general counsel to a number of companies, from manufacturers and distributors to marketing and international software companies

PRESENTATIONS & PUBLICATIONS

- Testify before the Michigan House of Representatives in support of pending legislation – HB 5217 and 5218 – that would provide college-athlete NIL (name, image, and likeness) rights, Jan. 23, 2020
- "To the Victor Go the Spoils (and the Calzones)," Oct. 23, 2017
- National Business Institute, Clarifying Procedures in Mergers and Acquisitions of Privately-Held Companies, Jun. 27, 2017
- Allied Universal, Workplace Violence: Planning & Prevention, May 10, 2017
- Upper Arlington High School Cum Laude Society Induction, Mar. 26, 2017
- "Estate Planning for Small Business Owners," Nov. 18, 2016
- "The Resilient Professional: Learning How to Rebound, Adapt & Thrive." Supreme Court of Ohio Commission on Professionalism, Oct. 21, 2016
- "Section 2704 Proposed Changes," Sept. 16, 2016
- "The Critical Role of Subpoenas in Litigation," Aug. 4, 2016
- "Preparing the Leaders of Tomorrow's Changing the Legal Profession," Supreme Court of Ohio Commission on Professionalism, Nov. 14, 2014
- "LLCs: From Formation to Special Uses," National Business Institute, Sept. 30, 2013
- "Construction Defect Litigation: From A to Z," National Business Institute, Mar. 4, 2013
- "Avoiding the 'Friday to Monday Law': FMLA Best Practices," Mar. 23, 2010

- “Protecting Your IP Rights in China: An Overview of the Process,” *Entrepreneurial Business Law Journal*, 2006

AWARDS

- Selected to Ohio Super Lawyers 2014 – 2024
- The Best Lawyers in America, Litigation – Labor and Employment, 2020 – 2021
- Leadership Upper Arlington Distinguished Alumni Award, 2017
- “Forty Under 40,” Columbus Business First, 2015
- Top 5: 2015 Columbus Super Lawyers
- Top 50: 2015 Columbus Super Lawyers
- Top 100: 2015 Ohio Super Lawyers
- Selected to Ohio Rising Stars 2012 – 2013
- Martindale-Hubbell AV® Preeminent™ Peer Review Rated Attorney
- The Founders Entrepreneurial Spirit Award for Significant and Lasting Contribution to the Entrepreneurial Business Law Journal, 2007
- Federal Bar Association
- Ohio State University Moritz College of Law, Adjunct Professor
- State Bar of Michigan

CIVIC INVOLVEMENT

- City of Upper Arlington Leadership Program
 - Graduate
- Flying Horse Farms
 - Board of Directors, Chair
- Leadership Columbus Graduate, 2019
- Ohio State University Honors & Scholars Program
 - External Advisory Committee, Past Advisory Board Member
- Supreme Court of Ohio Lawyer to Lawyer Mentoring Program
 - Mentor
- The Berkshire Triathlon benefiting Flying Horse Farms, Nationwide Children’s Hospital, and the Ronald McDonald House
 - Co-founder and Past-President
- Upper Arlington Junior High and J.V. Hockey Teams,
 - Past Coach