



CHRISTOPHER G. HERREL

Associate

CGH@kjk.com
(216)736.7271

Chris Herrel is a talented associate who assists across KJK's wide variety of practice groups. He is passionate about his clients and their needs, making great efforts to present complex information in a way that is both effective and easily digestible.

Chris comes from a family of lawyers; thus, he was taught at a young age that words have power and can be used to leverage a desired result. Taking that practice into his career, Chris has become a trusted advisor and successful attorney.

Prior to joining KJK, Chris primarily focused his practice on civil and probate litigation, real estate and estate planning. Chris holds a Bachelor of Science degree in International Relations from The Ohio State University and earned his Juris Doctorate from Cleveland State University Cleveland-Marshall College of Law, graduating cum laude.

Outside of work, Chris enjoys traveling and engaging with people from diverse backgrounds and cultures. Having traveled around the U.S. and Europe, his life goal is to visit all seven continents. Chris also enjoys the outdoors and spends much of his free time exploring trails in the Cleveland Metroparks and the Cuyahoga Valley National Park.

As an avid car fan, Chris' most recent project involved an engine swap on a 1984 BMW 325e, though his passion for transportation design and engineering has led to some interesting experiences. Before getting into law, Chris studied ship design and had the opportunity to work at Newport News Shipbuilding, where he constructed aircraft carriers and submarines for the U.S. Navy. During his study of ship design, Chris also worked in the engine room of a chemical tanker delivering cargo from Houston, through the Panama Canal, to Japan and South Korea.

PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS

- Cleveland Metropolitan Bar Association
- Ohio State Bar Association

EDUCATION

- Cleveland State University Cleveland-Marshall College of Law, J.D., 2021, cum laude
- The Ohio State University, B.S., International Relations, 2018

BAR/COURT ADMISSIONS

- Ohio

CIVIC INVOLVEMENT

- BMW Car Club of America
- Northern Ohio Chapter, Member

REPRESENTATIVE EXPERIENCE

- Authored the winning 345-page bid to secure the 2016 Republican National Convention for the City of Cleveland and Host Committee Served as General Counsel and lead negotiator for the 2016 Republican National Convention negotiating more than 300 related contracts and authoring necessary authorizing legislation Serves as a fiduciary/trustee over hundreds of millions of dollars of liquid assets and real estate
- Built multi-million dollar capital stack and served as lead negotiator for public-private project to construct 200,000-square-foot world headquarters for a leading Cleveland corporation Structured several multi-million-dollar major gifts to and for charitable institutions, including a \$42 million gift to construct a world-class cancer hospital
- Negotiated purchase or sale of multi-family properties in excess of \$1 billion over career Negotiated mergers and acquisitions as well as public and private debt and equity financings for middle-market businesses through the Midwest Negotiated purchase or sale of retail real estate properties in excess of \$500 million over career
- Represented some of the Midwest's largest private employers in "bet the business" litigation and investigations, including successfully heading off an attempt by a competitor to unlawfully influence an investigation by the U.S. Attorney General Serves as general counsel and provides risk, estate, tax and wealth planning counsel to high net-worth families, managing hundreds of millions of dollars in client assets
- Defended a New York-based public company in a several hundred million dollar securities class action Served as one of the lead trial attorneys in the prosecution of a related high-profile malpractice claim against the company's former "big four" auditor that resulted in a multi-million dollar out-of-court settlement that was covered by the Wall Street Journal and other major publications
- Served as general counsel for several major private-public projects and initiatives through the Northeast Ohio region

PRESENTATIONS & PUBLICATIONS

- "Personal View: It's time to get to work to fix our economy," Crain's Cleveland Business, July 2018
- "It's time for an economic development summit in Cleveland," Smart Business, May 2018
- "It's time to start a tough conversation about the region's lagging jobs data," Smart Business, Feb. 2018
- "Strategic Legal Update: How Far Will the Pendulum Swing," HR Leadership Group, Jan. 19, 2017
- "Life after the RNC: What's Next?" Crain's Cleveland Business, Aug. 16, 2016

AWARDS

- Selected to Ohio Super Lawyers, 2016 – 2023
- Named to Crain's Cleveland Business "Power 150," 2020, 2022
- Named to Cleveland Magazine's Cleveland 500, 2021
- Recipient of "Smart 50 Award," 2016, 2020
- Named to Cleveland Magazine's "Northeast Ohio's Power 100," recognizing the 100 most powerful people in Northeast Ohio, 2015 – 2018
- Named to Crain's Cleveland Business "Who's Who in Northeast Ohio," 2017
- Selected to Ohio Rising Stars, 2009 – 2015
- University Hospital's Distinguished Advisor Award, 2011 "Life after the RNC: What's Next?" Crain's Cleveland Business, Aug. 16, 2016