

Joseph E. Kolar

Partner

312-253-8808 / jkolar@rblaw.net

Paralegal: Lucy Gonzalez

312-253-8824 / lgonzalez@rblaw.net



Practice Areas

Birth Injuries

Medical Malpractice

Nursing Home Abuse

Wrongful Death

Education & Certifications

- J.D., Northern Illinois University College of Law, 1985
- B.A., Illinois State University, 1982

Jurisdictions Admitted to Practice

State of Illinois, 1985

U.S. District Court for the Northern, Central and Southern Districts of Illinois

U.S. Court of Appeals for the Seventh Circuit

Joseph E. Kolar serves as a Partner at the Chicago-based law firm, Romanucci & Blandin, LLC, where he focuses his practice on handling serious personal injury cases, including medical malpractice and birth injuries, in addition to transportation related-injuries in aviation, train and automobile crashes.

As a civil trial lawyer with over 35 years of experience in Illinois state and federal courts, Joe served a co-trial counsel in obtaining numerous notable verdicts and settlements for clients, including a \$29.8 million award against the United States of America for a child who suffered a brain injury from an unnecessary delay in his delivery; a \$25 million verdict in a medical negligence trial in Chicago; a \$19.4 million Cook County settlement for a brain injury to an adult (following a three-week medical negligence trial); an \$18.6 million Lake County jury verdict for a boy who suffered a brain injury at birth (an Illinois record at the time); and an \$11 million federal jury verdict for the death of an 18-year-old in a truck-car crash.

For his work, Joe has been selected to the Illinois Super Lawyers® list for over 15 years, as a *Leading Lawyer* by Law Bulletin Publishing Company's Leading Lawyers Division since 2004, and most recently was selected by his peers for inclusion in *The Best Lawyers in America*® for 2021-2022. Additionally, Joe maintains an AV Preeminent® peer-review rating by Martindale-Hubbell.

Joe is a member of the Illinois Trial Lawyers Association and the American Association for Justice (AAJ). With AAJ, Joe has been recognized as an "Advocate of Trial Advocacy" by its National College of Advocacy. Joe is also a member of the Illinois State Bar Association, the Lake County Bar Association and the Bohemian Lawyers' Association of Chicago where he serves as President.

Joe has lectured to other lawyers on civil trial matters at seminars sponsored by the Illinois Trial Lawyers Association, the Lake County Bar Association and the McHenry County Bar Association.

Joe graduated from Illinois State University in 1982. In 1985, he graduated *cum laude* from Northern Illinois University (NIU) College of Law. While at NIU, Joe was an editor of the law review and had an article published in the law review titled: "Adoption of a Flexible Standard for

Analyzing Informant's Tips in *Illinois v. Gates*," 4 Northern Illinois University Law Review 179-202, 1983.

After graduation from law school, Joe took a job with the Lake County State's Attorney's Office in Waukegan. While in the State's Attorney's Office, Joe handled complex civil matters at the trial and appellate court level. As an Assistant State's Attorney, Joe successfully handled the following appeals: *Salvation Army v. Department of Revenue*, 170 Ill.App.3d 336, 524 N.E.2d 628 (2nd Dist. 1988); *Lake County Board of Review v. Property Tax Appeal Board*, 172 Ill. App.3d 851, 527 N.E.2d 84 (2nd Dist. 1988)(co-counsel); *County of Lake v. Zenko*, 174 Ill.App.3d 54, 528 N.E.2d 414 (2nd Dist. 1988); *Commonwealth Edison Company v. County of Lake*, 183 Ill.App.3d 1060, 540 N.E.2d 6 (2nd Dist. 1989)(co-counsel); *Kankakee County Board of Review v. Property Tax Appeal Board*, 131 Ill.2d 1, 544 N.E.2d 762 (1989)(amicus curiae brief)(co-counsel).

In private practice, Joe has successfully handled the following appeals: *Poeta v. Sheridan Point Shopping Plaza Partnership*, 195 Ill.App.3d 852, 552 N.E.2d 1248 (2nd Dist. 1990)(co-counsel); *Pace Realty Group Inc. v. Property Tax Appeal Board*, 306 Ill.App.3d 718, 713 N.E.2d 1249 (2nd Dist. 1999); *Hackl v. Advocate Health and Hospitals Corp.*, 382 Ill.App.3d 442, 887 N.E.2d 726 (1st Dist. 2008); and *In re Estate of Diaz*, 2014 IL App (2d) 140239-U.

Outside of the courtroom, Joe enjoys spending time with his grandson, sons and wife. Joe enjoys golf, stand-up paddle boarding on Lake Michigan, snow skiing, basketball and hiking.

Experience

\$1,300,000 Verdict - Medical/Dental Malpractice

\$2,750,000 Settlement - Minor Child Abuse

\$975,000 Settlement - Party Bus Accident
July 2021

\$8,000,000 Settlement - Medical Malpractice
May 2021

\$900,000 Settlement - Title IX, Wrongful Death
May 2020

\$25,000,000 Verdict - Medical Negligence
May 2018

\$17,300,000 Settlement - Bus Accident

\$19,400,000 Settlement - Surgical Error

\$17,000,000 Verdict - Auto Accident

\$11,250,000 Settlement - Medical Malpractice

\$11,000,000 Verdict - Truck Crash

\$26,400,000 Settlement - Birth Injury
December 2014

\$29,800,000 Verdict - Birth Injury
December 2013

\$18,600,000 Verdict – Birth Injury

Awards & Recognition

- Advisory Board Member, *Leading Lawyers*, 2023
- Named one of *The Best Lawyers in America*® by U.S. News and World Report, 2021-2023
- Selected to the Illinois Super Lawyers® list, 2005, 2007, 2009-2023
- Named a *Leading Lawyer* by Law Bulletin Publishing Company's Leading Lawyers Division, 2004-2023

Legal Activities & Leadership

- President, Bohemian Lawyers' Association of Chicago, 2019-2022
- American Association for Justice (AAJ), Member
- Bohemian Lawyers' Association of Chicago, Member
- Illinois State Bar Association (ISBA), Member
- Illinois Trial Lawyers Association (ITLA), Member
- Lake County Bar Association, Member

In the News

Romanucci & Blandin earns high national marks
Fra Noi, January 16, 2023

Family of man who died after falling from moving party bus reaches settlement with company
Chicago Sun-Times, January 21, 2022

CDLB People – Romanucci & Blandin secures an \$8 million settlement in a lawsuit involving a medical malpractice injury
Chicago Daily Law Bulletin, March 13, 2021

Blog Posts

I Think My Child Has a Birth Injury: What Do I Do?
Romanucci & Blandin Blog, March 13, 2023