

# *Applicant Attorney Award*

## **Robert Keefe**

Robert (Bob) Keefe demonstrates considerable versatility in his role as a workers compensation industry leader, applicant/claimant attorney and philanthropist. Bob has practiced law in Missouri and Illinois since 1979, with a focus on plaintiff's workers compensation. Over the course of his career, he has personally handled an estimated 5,000 workers compensation cases, including more than 200 trials. He has represented at least 30 permanent total disability claimants.

Bob has argued cases before both the Missouri and Illinois Supreme Courts. He served on the Missouri Bar workers compensation committee and helped draft key workers compensation legislation. A recognized authority in his field, Bob is frequently asked to write or present on topics including work-related carpal tunnel syndrome, trial preparation, workers compensation benefit effects on divorce law, the Americans with Disabilities Act and ethics in legal advertising. Among his noteworthy personal accomplishments, Bob was instrumental in launching Kids' Chance of Missouri in 1995, and he played an important role in starting Kids' Chance of America in 1999. He is on the executive board for both of these organizations and has served several terms as president of Kids' Chance of Missouri.

"This is truly an honor," he said after receiving the Comp Laude® award. "There is a bit of baggage in the defense industry as a whole. It has grown to the point where there are thousands of employees who make up a mosaic. The system was originally designed to be simple, and it has become very complex. The number of regulations in this area is increasing. Workers are facing layers of red tape. Meanwhile, as the quality of medical care gets better and better, corresponding costs continue to rise. In this environment, it's difficult for defense not to get a bad name."

As an award recipient, Bob is widely acknowledged for his good name, high standards of professionalism, stakeholder collaboration, ethical practice and compassion for the children of parents who have been impacted by a work-related injury.

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