

# POWER 30

PERSONAL INJURY LAW 2020

## SCOTT S. BETHUNE

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KANSAS CITY



In addition to his considerable trial victories, Scott Bethune has put his stamp on the state's judiciary as a member of the 16th Circuit Judicial Commission, followed by his current service on the Appellate Judicial Commission.

Bethune was president of the Kansas City Metropolitan Bar Association in 2015. He went on to become president of the University of Missouri-Kansas City Law Foundation, giving back to the school where he earned his law degree in 1988.

Bethune was the lead attorney for the family of a man severely burned when a truck crashed into a state trooper's cruiser on the side of a highway. A jury in 2005 awarded \$8.5 million against the trucking company, though the cruiser's manufacturer avoided liability.

At least two of his cases have prompted reactions from state lawmakers. In 2014, he reached a confidential settlement in Jackson County Circuit Court for a group of people killed in a train collision in Mexico. The legislature passed a bill that year restricting venue for railroad injuries occurring in other countries.

And in 2015, he won a \$3.25 million verdict for a woman whose ex-boyfriend shot her in the head in the parking lot of her employer. After the Supreme Court affirmed the verdict in 2018, lawmakers passed a bill attempting to clarify businesses' liability for crimes that occur on their property.