



## Mediation Panel List Mediator Spotlight Spring 2026

Under Section 3.2 of the Court's Mediation Plan, the parties are generally able to select their own mediator from the Court-approved Mediation Panel List (unless the Court has ordered otherwise, or the parties cannot agree upon a mediator).

To help inform the parties of the unique backgrounds, experiences, training, and qualifications of the over 100 mediators on the Court-approved Mediation Panel List, each quarter the Court will select and highlight two mediators at random to feature in this publication.

**Adam D. Hirtz, Esq.**  
Jackson Lewis P.C.  
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**Direct:** (314) 746-4825  
**Email:** [adam.hirtz@jacksonlewis.com](mailto:adam.hirtz@jacksonlewis.com)

**Hourly Mediation/Preparation Rates:** \$475

**Nature of Practice/Areas of Specialization:**  
Employment Litigation; Restrictive Covenants and Trade Secrets; Workplace Safety and Health

**Background:** A Central Illinois native, Adam Hirtz originally hails from Chillicothe, Illinois. He currently resides in St. Peters, Missouri, with his family. Mr. Hirtz's interest in practicing law came from watching, and hearing about, his father (a retired FBI agent) testifying as a witness in criminal cases in federal court. Mr. Hirtz later worked as a clerk for one of the federal judges in the United States District Court for the Central District of Illinois before whom his father had regularly testified. In addition to private mediations, Mr. Hirtz regularly mediates cases for the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission (EEOC) on a voluntary basis.

**Education:** Southern Illinois University, Carbondale, B.S., 1996; Saint Louis University School of Law, J.D., 1999

**Work History:** Mr. Hirtz is a principal and office litigation manager for the St. Louis, Missouri, office of Jackson Lewis P.C., with more than 25 years of experience as a trial attorney representing businesses in employment litigation in both state and federal courts throughout the country. Prior to his employment with Jackson Lewis, Mr. Hirtz was a partner with Lowenbaum Law (2013 - 2018), a partner with Husch Blackwell LLP (1998 - 2013), and was a judicial clerk with the U.S. District Court, Central District of Illinois (Hon. Michael M. Mihm).

**Areas of Practice:** Mr. Hirtz's primary practice area is employment law, representing clients in cases of alleged harassment, discrimination and retaliation, as well as representing and advising clients as to restrictive covenant agreements, trade secret disputes, OSHA compliance issues, OSHA inspections, and revolving or contesting OSHA citations.

**Industry Experience:** Throughout his career, Mr. Hirtz has represented and advised clients in industry sectors including manufacturing, construction, HVAC, retail, non-profit, healthcare, restaurant and hospitality, technology, transportation, banking and insurance.

**Mediation Philosophy:** Mr. Hirtz views mediation as an indispensable part of the litigation process. Even if mediation does not resolve the litigation, it provides a unique opportunity to evaluate the parties' positions. He takes seriously the trust parties place in him to enter into their dispute as a conduit to finding common ground that will avoid the uncertainties and emotional and monetary costs of continued litigation. Parties who have mediated with Mr. Hirtz describe him as prepared, persistent, creative, objective, thoughtful and straight-forward.

**James L. Craney, Esq.**  
Craney Winters Law Group LLC  
115 N Buchanan, Suite A  
Edwardsville, IL 62025



**Office:** (618) 307-9595

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**Hourly Mediation/Preparation Rates:** \$225  
(M) \$200 (P)

**Nature of Practice/Areas of Specialization:**  
General Litigation; Personal Injury / Tort;  
Insurance Law (first- and third-party); Contract;  
Consumer Fraud; Environmental Litigation and  
Toxic Tort.

**Background:** James Craney currently resides in  
Glen Carbon, Illinois, and has lived throughout  
his life in Southern Illinois and the St. Louis  
area.

**Education:** University of Illinois at Urbana-  
Champaign, Bachelor of Science 1991; Southern  
Illinois University at Carbondale, Master of  
Science, 1995; University of Texas School of  
Public Health, Master of Public Health, 1998;  
Saint Louis University School of Law, Juris  
Doctor, 2002

**Work History:** Mr. Craney is currently the  
managing partner of Craney Winters Law  
Group in Edwardsville, Illinois, a firm he  
founded in 2016. During his prior career he  
worked at multiple civil law firms in both the  
City of St. Louis, and the metro-east region.  
These include Brown & James law firm (St.  
Louis), Burroughs, Hepler, Macdonald,  
Hebrank & True (St. Louis and Edwardsville),  
and Lewis Brisbois Bisgaard & Smith  
(Edwardsville). He has tried over 30 cases to a  
jury, both in state and federal courts, in both  
Illinois and Missouri, and completed many  
other bench trials. Throughout his career he  
has participated in numerous mediations and  
has served often as a panel arbitrator both  
within the mandatory civil arbitration system  
in Madison County, Illinois, and on underinsured  
motorist panels pursuant to Illinois statute. He  
has also represented various municipalities as  
general counsel and currently handles some  
civil governmental matters as a Madison  
County Assistant State's Attorney.

**Professional Achievements:** Mr. Craney  
obtained the Health Law Certificate from St.  
Louis University Law School, and he has  
previously clerked with the U.S. Department of  
Health and Human Services, Office of Inspector  
General. Prior to his legal career, James worked  
as a statistical data analyst with Washington  
University medical school and has co-authored  
numerous medical journal articles. He has been  
recognized by both Illinois Leading Lawyers,  
and by Missouri Super Lawyers as a rising star  
in 2012.