

POWER 30

FAMILY LAW

2020

LAWRENCE GILLESPIE

GILLESPIE HETLAGE & COUGHLIN

ST. LOUIS



Larry Gillespie has taken some of Missouri's hardest-fought family law cases to the Court of Appeals and the Missouri Supreme Court.

Among his most recent high-profile cases was a 2018 ruling in the state Supreme Court affirming a man's custody of his stepdaughter after both of her biological parents were found to be unfit.

In 2011, he represented a mother who was ordered by a judge to relocate to Missouri and reside in the St. Louis area in order to get custody of her child. The Supreme Court said the judge didn't have that power.

Perhaps his best known case is *J.C.W. ex rel. Webb v. Wyciskalla*, which in 2009 clarified the difference between a court's jurisdiction to hear a case and its authority to act due to a particular statutory requirement.

The oft-cited precedent stemmed from Gillespie's representation of a man who challenged a state law that required him to post a bond in the amount of the child support he allegedly owed before he could seek to modify a custody arrangement.

Gillespie earned his law degree in 1981 from Saint Louis University.