

# Their Toughest Opponents



## Jay Kirksey

*At only 34 years-old, Kirksey has already made his mark filing and winning intricate, "creative" plaintiffs' cases. His civil rights cases have sometimes been controversial: suing DFS officials in one case and a county prosecutor in another. He lives and has his office in Bolivar, a town he adores and describes as his "Mayberry."*

**F**or toughest opponents, Kirksey chose Ransom Ellis III and Rick Temple from the Springfield firms of Ellis & Ellis and Temple & King.

"I am a big believer in the smaller firms," says Kirksey. "They are small enough that they have to keep their finger in the pie. They can't pass the case off to an associate as readily. That makes them tougher. And I have been in larger firms."

"I think the two best labor [defense] firms in the state are in Springfield. I've tried cases against Kansas City firms and while they are objectively professionals, the two I mentioned are tougher."

Kirksey made the front page of the *Wall Street Journal* early in his career and reports that "from that time on it's been a big time snowball." In 1990 he hunted gold in Alaska. Plaintiff's gold that is \$1.1 millions' worth.