

Jonathan Causey

Managing Partner

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Specialties:

- Civil Litigation (Personal Injury, Commercial & Business Disputes, Fraud & Asset Recovery)
- Criminal Defense (Felonies, Federal Crimes, White Collar, Human Trafficking)
- Immigration Law (Removal Defense, Asylum, Waivers)
- Appellate Advocacy (State and Federal Appeals)
- Family Law (Divorce, Custody, Domestic Violence)

Memberships:

- Co-Chair, Bench and Bar Committee, Polk County Bar Association
- Member, Iowa Association for Justice
- Member, Iowa State Bar Association
- Member, Minnesota State Bar Association
- Member, Iowa Supreme Court Grievance Commission
- Barrister, C. Edwin Moore Inns of Court
- Criminal Justice Act Panel, Southern District of Iowa
- Former Vice President & Board Member, Iowa Network Against Human Trafficking

Personal Introduction

Attorney Jonathan (“Jon”) Causey is the Managing Partner of Causey & Ye Law, P.L.L.C. He represents clients in civil litigation, criminal defense, immigration, and appellate matters. His practice includes wrongful death, personal injury, commercial disputes, fraud, asset recovery, and high-stakes criminal defense such as drug crimes, sex crimes, white-collar offenses, and human trafficking cases. He also provides immigration representation before USCIS, EOIR, and federal courts, and frequently argues appeals in state, federal, and immigration courts.

Originally from Memphis, Tennessee, Jon earned his B.B.A. in Banking & Finance with a minor in Economics from Mississippi State University in 2004. After graduation, he founded and managed an insurance agency, where he assisted more than 1,000 clients with financial planning and insurance needs. He held insurance licenses in Tennessee, Arkansas, and Mississippi, along with Series 6 and 63 securities licenses. Jon went on to earn his Juris Doctor with Honors from Mississippi College School of Law in 2014.

As a litigator, Jon has secured millions of dollars in civil judgments and has successfully defended clients against government prosecution in criminal trials. His professional excellence has been recognized with several awards, including the International Community Leadership Award from the Iowa Secretary of State (2016), the Top 10 Under 40 in Criminal Defense by the National Academy of Criminal Defense Attorneys (2017), and the inaugural U.S.–China Business Leadership Award from the Iowa–China Council (2017), presented by the U.S. Ambassador to China and Iowa Governor Kim Reynolds.

Achievements and Highlights

Selected to Rising Stars by Super Lawyers (2021–2024)

National Academy of Criminal Defense Attorneys, Top 10 Under 40 (2017)

Recognized as a Top-Rated Business Litigation Attorney

International Community Leadership Award (2016)

US-China Business Leadership Award

Immigration & Family

- Won asylum cases in Omaha, NE and Fort Snelling, MN immigration courts.
- Secured millions in divorce property distributions in Minnesota and Iowa, including international cases with cross-border assets.

Civil & Commercial Litigation

- Managing Partners Jonathan Causey and Yangyidi Ye represented a multinational trading company from China that owned a Delaware LLC holding a multi-million-dollar warehouse in Iowa. The company was sued in an Iowa district court by a Texas corporation—its lessee—based on an alleged breach of a Chinese contract containing an arbitration clause. Importantly, this contract had been executed years before our client acquired any ownership interest in the Iowa warehouse. The Texas corporation escalated the dispute by filing a mechanic's lien against the warehouse and moving for attachment. Causey & Ye Law successfully defeated and removed the lien. We further attacked the pleadings on the grounds of lack of subject matter jurisdiction, lack of personal jurisdiction, and forum non convenient. In addition, we moved for and were granted forcible entry and detainer against the Texas corporation with respect to its continued occupancy of the Iowa warehouse. Through strategic litigation and negotiation, the case was ultimately resolved by a successful settlement. All further litigation was dismissed with prejudice, and the warehouse transaction was completed without hindrance. Our team continues to provide ongoing legal support for this client's U.S. operations across multiple areas. This matter is just one example of how Causey & Ye Law effectively handles and wins complex international disputes and cross-border litigation.
- Lead trial attorney in Johnson County EB-5 fraud case, winning \$140,000 compensatory and \$400,000 punitive damages.
- Secured a \$1.35 million settlement for an individual struck by a dump truck.
- Forced settlement in a Minnesota wrongful death / rideshare case of first impression; won a \$7M+ default judgment and transcribed it to China for enforcement.
- Won a substantial payout in a civil assault case by uncovering a hidden admission in medical records, defeating the defendant's self-defense claim.
- Alongside co-managing partner Yangyidi Ye, secured full policy-limit settlement for four international clients in a Yellowstone car accident case.
- Won \$460,000 summary judgment against a Mid-west steel company for a Chinese corporate client.
- Won summary judgment in Minnesota federal court against an insurance company in a product liability case tied to Amazon sales.
- Represented a multimillion-dollar Iowa ag-tech company in federal litigation against a Fortune 500 corporation.
- Recovered \$500,000 for a Minnesota company in a wire transfer dispute with a Washington company.
- Vacated an Iowa custody order by enforcing a prior Chinese custody order under UCCJEA.

Criminal Defense

- Got 14 counts of embezzlement dismissed by proving false accusations and tax manipulation.
- Won federal acquittal for a client charged with felon in possession of a firearm tied to an alleged gang shooting.
- Defended five clients charged in MINE Drug Task Force cases, achieving favorable outcomes.
- Secured dismissal of over a dozen human trafficking cases tied to MINE investigations, and recovered seized property, including unfreezing accounts.
- Pre-trial dismissal of two Class A Felonies for Human Trafficking: Jon argued the State could not prove the essential elements of the crimes. The Judge agreed, dismissing both cases, sparing his client two life sentences without parole.
- Defended multiple human trafficking and prostitution profit cases in Minnesota; secured return of \$100,000+ in seized funds.
- Defended a Boston client in a multi-state prostitution profit case; secured release from custody and probation.
- Defended a client accused of child abuse causing injury (10-year felony); the State dismissed after failing to prove its case.