



JOHN T. BIRD
SENIOR PARTNER



The Legacy: Partners Bob Glassman (l.) and John Bird, practiced law together for 31 years together, until Bob's death in 2005.

“I just celebrated my 40th year as an ‘official’ lawyer. Taking into account, though, that I vowed at age 16 to work hard to become a lawyer, a really good lawyer, in my hometown of Hays, Kansas, I have been ‘practicing’ as a lawyer for 50 years. Long story short, two months after my 16th birthday my father, my hero, died in an accident at age 47 and I had to help my mother navigate the legal and financial aftermath of his premature death. I learned then that to competently and fairly help people with problems, I would need to become educated to be that—a professional, ethical, effective, caring advocate for people who needed help. Thanks to many people along the way, I met that boyhood goal, and this no-longer-a-teen Kansas lawyer renews his pledge with each new client.”

Areas of Practice:

- Divorce
- Estate Planning
- Probate
- Child Custody
- Municipal Law
- Oil & Gas
- Personal Injury
- Litigation
- General Practice

Career Overview: Upon his graduation from law school in 1974, John returned home to Hays to work in Robert F. Glassman’s law firm; he practiced with him until Bob’s death in 2005. Their third partner became a District Court Judge. John continues to actively and assertively practice in his 111-year-old limestone-church-now-law-office on the town square. His long-time focus has been family law. He and his law firm have also served as City Attorney for the City of Hays for more than 50 years. Through his law practice, government service, and civic interests, he has developed particular expertise in Northwest Kansas regarding water and other natural resources, energy processes and distribution, environmental impact and efficiencies, land use, and business development and job creation in Hays and the region. He was a member of the Kansas Supreme Court Child Support Guidelines Committee for 23 years. He was Assistant County Attorney for Ellis County (1975) and City Attorney for the City of Ellis (1975–84). He is a member of the Ellis County, Kansas, and American Bar Associations, Kansas Association for Justice, and American Association for Justice.

Education: John graduated from the Washburn University School of Law in 1974. He attended Hays High School and earned a B.S. at Washburn University in Topeka, majoring in Political Science, Biology, and Spanish. He is a member of Sagamore, the premier honorary fraternity at Washburn University; a member of Phi Kappa Phi national honor society; and was the recipient of the Garvey Competitive Scholarship, the top such award at Washburn.

On a Personal Note: John was born in Hays, Kansas, where his family has lived since his paternal grandparents, John S. and Martha Bird, moved to Hays in 1906. John and his wife Carolyn have four children, two foster children, several grandchildren, and a small menagerie of pets and grandpets. He enjoys sports, travel (especially family trips to the Oregon Coast and his solo stationary-bike trips around the nation), writing, politics, and Haysamerica history (which began when settlers set up camp on the site where John’s office sits).

Find More Information: www.gbbplaw.com; lawyers@haysamerica.com; Glassman, Bird, Brown & Powell, LLP, on Facebook; [avvo.com/find-a-lawyer](https://www.avvo.com/find-a-lawyer).