

Missouri Lawyers WEEKLY

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Best Solo Practitioner 2008

DAVID W. RANSIN

David W. Ransin, P.C., Springfield



It was a tough road 19 years ago, when David Ransin set out to start his own law practice in Springfield.

Back then, there wasn't the strong network of solo and small firm attorneys that exists in Missouri today, he said.

"So you make your own mistakes day to day, learn

from them and try not to repeat them," Ransin said.

His first cases came to him through word of mouth, he said, helped by his growing reputation as an attorney who would work a case until the bitter end. This was exemplified in the seven years Ransin spent litigating a wrongful death case in Greene

County for a couple whose son died from brain damage suffered during birth. Different elements of the case went to the state appeals court and twice to the Missouri Supreme Court, which upheld his client's settlement amount two times.

"Each one is a case where, big or small, win or lose,

we fought to the very bitter end," Ransin said. "I think that is the hallmark: not giving up."

He said his plaintiffs-only solo practice gives him more independence than he had at a firm. But there are drawbacks, too: "I used to joke, 'You've got no backside to kiss, but you've also got no fingers to point.'"