

# Providing Opportunities For Others

**M**ark Levison, an attorney at Lashly & Baer, P.C., has enjoyed a prestigious legal career. Over the years, he has worked on his share of “cases of a lifetime,” representing such clients as major casinos, the National Football League (NFL), NFL Hall of Famer Jerry Rice, and many other professional athletes.

“I get tremendous satisfaction from my legal work,” Levison said. “I’m aware that my clients are trusting me to win their cases. Each case is extremely significant for the companies involved, both personally and monetarily. I take the job seriously because people are trusting me ~ in some cases, to save their companies.”

Levison’s practice includes complex commercial litigation and client counseling in the areas of intellectual property, general litigation, governmental relations, and administrative affairs - with a concentration in economic development incentives.

While he’s proud of his legal work, some of his most rewarding work has come from pro bono clients and his contributions to the community.

Levinson’s community contributions are extensive. He is a recognized leader of the organized bar and is one of only two lawyers in the history of The Missouri Bar to serve as president of both the Bar Association of Metropolitan St. Louis and the Trial Lawyers Association of St. Louis, and to serve as a member of The Missouri Board

of Governors.

He also served as a member of the Missouri Legislature’s Subcommittee on the Privatization of Government Services. In Washington D.C., Levison served on the staffs of the U.S. Senate and the U.S. House of Representatives. Additionally, as a community leader, he has served on many governmental and charitable boards. Currently, he is the chairman of the Land Reutilization Authority of the City of St. Louis and the chairman of the board of the Urban League of Metropolitan St. Louis.

One of the most long-standing programs he helped form was an internship program called the St. Louis Internship Program (SLIP), offered through the St. Louis Bar Association. “We set up a program to hire kids from the city into our law firms,” he said. “I was so moved by that program. We hired 52 people the first year, and then we expanded the program beyond law to include banking



**Mark Levison**  
Lashly & Baer, P.C.

and other industries. The highest number of interns we had was 350 kids. I spoke about the program across the country, and it was adopted in 37 cities. This program has done immeasurable good. I can truly say that no one involved was concerned about getting credit, and that made it so easy to do the right thing for years.”

Recently that program, which launched in 1990, merged into Boys and Girls Club of St. Louis. “The program doesn’t just benefit kids that go through the program,” said Levison. “It also benefits their brothers, sisters, friends, etc. They learn that with hard work, they can get ahead. They realize the world is open to them, and people care and are out there to help them. If I had to name one thing that is dear to my heart to date, I would say it’s that program.”

Additionally, Levison noted that the legal profession has afforded him the opportunity to “leave the world a better place.” “You can do community work on a very micro level with your own family, or you can do so on a larger level,” he said. “I have been very fortunate to do some of these things on a larger scale. I’ve been able to do them because the law profession has been great to me. There has never been a single day I am not excited to go to work. Not one.”