

# Kathryn (Pierce) Banks

Kathryn Banks has dedicated her career to providing legal services for children and families who need representation in the family court system. From a love of mock trials in her ninth-grade civics class at University City High School, to her first job as a child care professional after graduating from the University of Kansas, to her decision to earn her law degree at the University of Missouri-Columbia, Banks has kept the welfare of children at the center. She served as an associate professor of practice in the School of Law and the director of the Children's Rights Clinic at Washington University.

She is currently an assistant professor of law at Saint Louis University and directs the law school's Children's Permanency Clinic. The work she does elevates the rights of parents and children in the court system and provides fair representation for families that cannot afford these critical services on their own. While a student at the University of Missouri, Banks was president of the Black Law Student Association and received the prestigious Thurgood Marshall scholarship. She serves on the board of the National Association of Counsel for Children, where she is working to bring best practices in child welfare advocacy to Missouri. Her contribution to the community was recognized in 2019 with a Spirit of Justice Award by the St. Louis Bar Foundation.



**Kathryn  
(Pierce)  
Banks**

*Class of 1993*