



William G. Beck

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PRACTICE AREAS

Class Action Defense
Environmental Law
Environmental Insurance
Analysis & Recovery
Environmental Litigation
General Business & Complex
Commercial Litigation
Insurance Recovery &
Counseling
Civil Rights Insurance Recovery
Environmental Regulations
Superfund
Contaminants & Toxic Tort
Odor Nuisance
PFAS (per- and polyfluoroalkyl
substances)

INDUSTRIES

Agribusiness & Food

Bill Beck has more than 35 years of experience as a trial lawyer. Bill's national practice consists of trials, arbitrations, administrative proceedings, mediations and negotiations to resolve high stakes, technical, complex disputes involving environmental liability and insurance coverage.

Toxic Tort. Bill is particularly experienced in defending major toxic tort litigation, including both mass actions and class actions. His key wins include summary judgments and voluntary dismissals of a large group of high-profile, Erin Brockovich-created, hexavalent chromium exposure class actions, mass actions and individual suits; defense verdicts in a five-week groundwater jury trial and a complex odor trial; the nominal mass settlement of a 2,000-plaintiff groundwater and air case; and defeating class certification on pleadings alone. He reached and implemented some of the most challenging and controversial class settlements in recent times. Bill is presently defending numerous complex putative class actions, mass actions and individual toxic tort and odor nuisance cases in New York, South Carolina, Alabama, Illinois, Kansas and Missouri. Bill is comfortable and experienced cross-examining and developing experts in technical fields such as epidemiology, risk assessment, molecular biology and carcinogenesis, air dispersion modeling, groundwater modeling, geotechnical engineering and analytical chemistry.

Insurance Coverage. Bill has been lead counsel for plaintiffs prosecuting environmental insurance coverage and bad faith lawsuits and claims involving more than 450 sites and the laws of more than 40 states. Bill's insurance coverage team has experience in insurance



COURT MEMBERSHIPS

- Missouri
- U.S. Supreme Court
- U.S. Court of Appeals for the First Circuit
- U.S. Court of Appeals for the Second Circuit
- U.S. Court of Appeals for the Fourth Circuit
- U.S. Court of Appeals for the Fifth Circuit
- U.S. Court of Appeals for the Sixth Circuit
- U.S. Court of Appeals for the Seventh Circuit
- U.S. Court of Appeals for the Eighth Circuit
- U.S. Court of Appeals for the Tenth Circuit
- U.S. District Court for the Northern District of Illinois, including its Trial Bar
- U.S. District Court for the District of Colorado
- U.S. District Court for the Western District of Oklahoma
- U.S. District Court for the Western District of Missouri
- U.S. District Court for the Eastern District of Missouri
- U.S. District Court for the Eastern District of Michigan
- U.S. District Court for the Eastern District of Wisconsin
- U.S. District Court for the District of Kansas

EDUCATION

University of Missouri-Kansas

archaeology, policy analysis, charting, allocation, claim development, settlement negotiations, coverage litigation, and alternative coverage dispute resolution. Bill has recovered hundreds of millions of dollars from insurers.

PFAS. Bill has been lead trial counsel defending multi-thousand-plaintiff mass tort litigation seeking medical monitoring and alleging widespread property damage; class litigation seeking remedial action at several different kinds of manufacturing and waste receiving facilities, as well as money damages; a Riverkeeper's citizen's suit seeking to prevent PFAS use, receipt and discharge to surface water; and claims of property damage and increased disease risk by one the owners of one manufacturing facility against another. Bill and his team regularly counsel clients on PFAS regulatory compliance, remediation, reporting and litigation avoidance in numerous states with fast-evolving regulatory programs requiring creative and thoughtful compliance approaches to avoid loss.

Superfund. Bill has defended companies against major environmental liabilities for decades, including more than 80 federal and state Superfund sites in more than 25 states. Bill has special proficiency in operator allocation, transporter liability and allocation, municipal solid waste liability and allocation, successor liability, orphan share and natural resource damages issues.

Civil Rights. Bill helps lead a team representing people who have served decades of prison time for crimes they did not commit, seeking compensation for their civil rights claims, including successful lawsuits for exonerees in Mississippi and Kansas and pending lawsuits for wrongfully convicted people in Louisiana and Illinois. Working with leading national civil rights firms and organizations since the 1990s, Bill and the team also help obtain multi-million-dollar recoveries for dozens of exonerees by reaching law enforcement liability insurance and other coverage, and in the process establishing cutting edge trigger of coverage theories as the law of several states.

City School of Law, J.D.

University of Missouri-Kansas
City, B.A.

Awards

Presentations

- Co-presenter, "The PFAS and the Furious: Insurance Coverage for 'Forever Chemical' Suits and Other Property and Casualty Claims," American College of Coverage Counsel (ACCC) 2023 Annual Meeting, May 11, 2023
- Panelist, "PFAS - A Huge Liability Come Home to Roost," American Agricultural Law Association Educational Symposium, November 11, 2022
- Panelist, "Buckle Up: The PFAS Rollercoaster—Across All Environmental Media—Is About to Leave the Station," American Bar Association Section of Environment, Energy & Resources (SEER) Conference, September 22, 2022
- Presenter, "The Growing Trigger Dispute for Civil Rights Claims," American Bar Association Insurance Coverage Litigation Committee CLE Seminar, February 27, 2019

Publications

- Co-author, "The PFAS and the Furious: Evaluating EPA's New PFAS Lifetime Health Advisories and Implications for the Future of PFAS Litigation," American Bar Association Section of Environment, Energy & Resources (SEER), September 2022
- Co-author, "Law Enforcement Liability Insurance," New Appleman on Insurance Law Library Ed. §33, 2011
- Co-author, "Environmental Insurance," New Appleman Insurance Law Practice Guide, 2nd ed. Matthew Bender & Company, Inc., 2008
- Co-author, "Understanding Environmental Insurance," Appleman on Insurance Law and Practice, 2nd ed. Matthew Bender & Company, Inc., 2008

Client Alerts And Blog Posts

- EPA Unveils New Proposed National Limits for PFAS in Drinking Water
March 16, 2023
- EPA's New Lifetime Health Advisories for PFOA and PFOS Rely on Health Outcome Associations Rejected by the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine
September 22, 2022
- FDA to Take Additional Steps in 2021 to Reduce PFAS in Food Supply

September 14, 2020

In The News

- Bloomberg Law Quotes Partner Bill Beck on New PFAS Designation, the Expected Rise in Superfund Sites
April 26, 2024
- Law360 Mentions Lathrop GPM Attorneys in Recent Article
February 2, 2024
- Law.com Quotes Partner Bill Beck on Potential Bailout for PFAS Defendants
April 24, 2023
- Missouri Lawyers Media Names Partner Bill Beck as a 2023 ICON Honoree
April 5, 2023
- The National Law Journal Quotes Partner Bill Beck on Expected Litigation Wave Following EPA's Proposed Rule to Cap 'Forever Chemicals' in Drinking Water at Close-to-Zero
March 15, 2023
- Bloomberg Law Quotes Partners Bill Beck and Ally Cunningham on Recently Released Federal PFAS Exposure Report
October 11, 2022
- Kansas City Business Journal Features Successes of Lathrop GPM's Civil Rights Insurance Recovery Team
July 6, 2022
- Bloomberg Law Quotes Bill Beck and Alex Brown on Wrongful Convictions
June 21, 2022
- Four Lathrop GPM Attorneys Honored with Missouri Lawyers Awards 2020
January 23, 2020
- Civil Rights Insurance Recovery Team Featured in The National Law Journal's Litigation Trailblazers Issue
September 3, 2019
- Missouri Lawyers Weekly Speaks to Mike Abrams on Important Fifth Circuit Opinion
June 7, 2019
- AmLaw Litigation Daily Speaks to Mike Abrams on Fifth Circuit Opinion
June 3, 2019

- Law 360 Talks to Bill Beck on Opinion Issued by Fifth Circuit
May 30, 2019
- William Beck and Michael Abrams Featured in Missouri & Kansas Super Lawyers Magazine on Recovering Financial Restitution for the Wrongfully Convicted
December 17, 2018
- Lawdragon 500: Bill Beck Earns 2016 Recognition
April 11, 2016
- Bill Beck Named a 2014 Rainmaker by Ingram's Magazine
September 25, 2014
- St. Louis Post-Dispatch: Mo. Supreme Court Upholds Dismissal of Suit Against Firm Client
July 21, 2011
- Missouri Lawyers Weekly: Jury Rules in Favor of Firm Client in Hog Farm Lawsuit
July 19, 2011
- Trenton Republican-Times: Jury Rules in Favor of Firm Client in Hog Farm Lawsuit
June 24, 2011
- Kansas City Business Journal: Lathrop Gage Lawyer Beck Helped in Story that Inspired "Conviction"
October 29, 2010
- Missouri Lawyers Media: Lathrop Gage Issues Pro Bono Challenge to Firms to Support Midwest Innocence Project
September 24, 2009
- Kansas City Business Journal: Lathrop Gage Practice Wins Big in Insurance Recovery
September 11, 2009

News Releases

- Lathrop GPM Attorneys Named 2023 Missouri & Kansas Super Lawyers and Rising Stars
December 11, 2023
- Eight Lathrop GPM Attorneys Named Lawyer of the Year, 89 Ranked as The Best Lawyers in America®
August 17, 2023
- 14 Lathrop GPM LLP Practice Groups and 35 Attorneys Ranked in Chambers USA 2023
June 1, 2023

- Bill Beck Named a 2023 ICON Honoree by Missouri Lawyers Media
April 24, 2023
- Lathrop GPM Attorneys Named 2022 Missouri & Kansas Super
Lawyers and Rising Stars
November 14, 2022
- Six Lathrop GPM Attorneys Named Lawyer of the Year, 95 Ranked
as The Best Lawyers in America©
August 18, 2022
- Chambers USA 2022 Names Lathrop GPM a Top Law Firm,
Franchise Group Ranked Nationwide
June 1, 2022
- Lathrop GPM PFAS Team Honored in Top Legal Innovations
Awards by Missouri Lawyers Media
December 8, 2021
- Missouri & Kansas Super Lawyers Recognizes 30 Lathrop GPM
Attorneys
November 16, 2021
- Seven Lathrop GPM Attorneys Named Lawyer of the Year, 100
Ranked as The Best Lawyers in America©
August 19, 2021
- Chambers USA 2021 Names Lathrop GPM a Top Law Firm,
Franchise Group Ranked Nationwide
May 20, 2021
- Two Partners Recognized for Civil Rights Insurance Recovery Work
on Missouri Lawyers' Power 30 List
December 17, 2020
- Missouri & Kansas Super Lawyers Recognizes 34 Lathrop GPM
Attorneys
November 16, 2020
- Lathrop GPM Attorneys Named to The Best Lawyers in America©,
Lawyer of the Year, and Ones to Watch for 2021
August 20, 2020
- Chambers USA 2020 Names Lathrop GPM a Top Law Firm,
Insurance Recovery Team Earns New Recognition, Franchise
Group Ranked Nationwide
April 23, 2020
- Missouri & Kansas Super Lawyers Recognizes 42 Lathrop Gage
Attorneys
November 13, 2019

- Best Lawyers in America 2020 Names 72 Lathrop Gage Attorneys; 13 Lawyers of the Year
August 15, 2019
- Lathrop Gage Recognized as a Leading Law Firm by Chambers USA
May 3, 2019
- Super Lawyers Recognizes 47 Lathrop Gage Attorneys in Missouri and Kansas
November 14, 2018
- Best Lawyers in America Recognizes 70 Lathrop Gage Attorneys
August 15, 2018
- Lathrop Gage Recognized as a Leading Law Firm by Chambers USA
May 3, 2018
- Super Lawyers Recognizes 57 Attorneys from Lathrop Gage in Missouri and Kansas
November 9, 2017
- Best Lawyers in America Recognizes 78 Lathrop Gage Attorneys
August 15, 2017
- Lathrop Gage Recognized as a Leading Law Firm by Chambers USA
June 8, 2017
- Best Lawyers in America Recognizes 78 Lathrop Gage Attorneys
August 16, 2016
- Lathrop Gage Recognized as a Leading Law Firm by Chambers USA
June 3, 2016
- Chambers USA Recognizes Lathrop Gage as a Leading Law Firm
May 20, 2015
- Bill Beck and Jessica Merrigan Among 50 Attorneys Recognized Nationally as National Law Journal's Energy & Environmental Trailblazers
May 8, 2015
- Super Lawyers Recognizes 71 Lathrop Gage Attorneys
October 14, 2013
- 81 Lathrop Gage Attorneys Named "Best Lawyers in America"
August 15, 2013
- Lathrop Gage LLP Receives Honors from Chambers USA
May 24, 2013

- Lathrop Gage Announces Mark Bluhm as CEO
May 17, 2013
- 75 Lathrop Gage Attorneys Named Missouri & Kansas Super Lawyers
October 15, 2012
- 80 Lathrop Gage Attorneys Named “Best Lawyers in America”
August 22, 2012
- Lathrop Gage Elects William Beck, Robert Grossman and Phillip Lorenzo to Executive Committee
July 9, 2012
- Lathrop Gage Receives Leading Law Firm and Lawyer Rankings from Chambers USA
June 7, 2012
- 54 Lathrop Gage Attorneys Named Missouri & Kansas Super Lawyers
November 1, 2011
- Four Lathrop Gage Attorneys Named “Lawyers of the Year” by Best Lawyers
October 4, 2011
- Lathrop Gage Receives Top Rankings from Chambers USA
June 10, 2011
- 62 Lathrop Gage Attorneys Recognized by Super Lawyers Magazine
October 13, 2010
- 59 Lathrop Gage Attorneys Named Best Lawyers in America
August 6, 2010
- Lathrop Gage Obtains Leading Law Firm Ratings from Chambers USA
June 11, 2010
- 10 Lathrop Gage Attorneys Named National Finalists for Lawdragon 500 Leading Lawyers in America
February 12, 2010
- 56 Lathrop Gage Attorneys Named Best Lawyers in America
August 3, 2009
- Chambers USA Names Lathrop Gage a Leading Firm in Ten Practice Areas for 2009
June 11, 2009
- Brent Baldwin, Bill Beck Named to Lawdragon 500
October 27, 2008

- Lathrop Gage Adds Brian Fries to Executive Committee
July 11, 2008
- Lathrop Gage's National Chambers USA Roster Grows in 2008
June 13, 2008

Professional Affiliations

- American Bar Association and its Litigation, Insurance and Environmental Sections
- Defense Research Institute and its Trial Techniques Committee
- The Missouri Bar
- Kansas City Metropolitan Bar Association
- American College of Coverage Counsel

Community Involvement

- Kansas City Public Improvements, Advisory Committee, Past Chair
- Citizens Association of Kansas City, Past Chair
- Kansas City Community Infrastructure Committee, Past Finance Chair
- Midwest Innocence Project, Advisory Board, past member

Honors

- Selected among *The Best Lawyers in America*®, 2005-2024
 - "Lawyer of the Year," Litigation - Environmental, 2015, 2018, 2024
 - "Lawyer of the Year," Environmental Law, 2020-2021
 - "Lawyer of the Year," Insurance Law, 2012
- *Missouri Lawyers Media*, ICON Honoree, 2023
 - Top Legal Innovations Award, Emerging Practice Areas, PFAS
- *Missouri Lawyer Weekly*, "The POWER List - Commercial & Consumer Law," 2020, 2023
- Named an "Influential Appellate Advocate" for one of the most significant appellate decisions of the year, *Missouri Lawyers Media*, 2020
- *National Law Journal*, "Litigation Trailblazer," 2019
 - "Top 50 Energy & Environmental Trailblazers," 2015

- Selected as one of *Lawdragon's* "500 Leading Lawyers in the United States," 2007-2009, 2017-2018
- *Chambers USA*, Missouri Environmental, Missouri Insurance, 2004-2023
- Elected as Fellow of the American College of Coverage Counsel (ACCC), 2014
- *Missouri & Kansas Super Lawyers*, 2005-2023
 - "Top 100 in Missouri," and "Top 50 in Kansas City,"
- Biography included in *Who's Who in American Law*®
- Martindale-Hubbell® Peer Review Rating - AV Preeminent