



KANSAS CITY

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Assistant

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PRACTICE AREAS

- Appellate Practice
- Closely Held & Family Business
- Litigation
- General Business & Complex Commercial Litigation
- Energy
- Insurance Recovery & Counseling
- Class Action Defense
- Non-Compete, Non-Solicit, Trade Secrets & Other Restrictive Covenants
- Environmental Insurance Analysis & Recovery
- Civil Rights Insurance Recovery
- Accountant Liability & Risk Management

INDUSTRIES

- Agribusiness & Food
- Media & Entertainment

Michael J. Abrams

Partner | michael.abrams@lathropgpm.com

First and foremost, Mike Abrams is a trial attorney who does his best work in the courtroom - obtaining noteworthy court decisions on behalf of companies in a wide range of industries, taking a stand for businesses fighting to keep their doors open, and exacting justice for exonerated individuals.

Named a "Litigation Trailblazer" by the *National Law Journal* for his procurement of influential legal decisions, Mike was also recognized by *Missouri Lawyers Weekly* for the Top Defense Verdict of 2018. *Nostrum Laboratories v. Balboa Capital Corporation* dealt with controversies involving capital leases related to sophisticated pharmaceutical research, development equipment and lab construction. After deliberating for only 48 minutes, the federal jury returned a defense verdict denying a \$7 million counterclaim against Mike's client and allowing it to keep the disputed equipment. One of the jurors was so impressed with Mike's courtroom presence that he requested representation in his own business matters.

A member of the firm's Business Litigation team and former member of Lathrop Gage's Executive Committee, Mike has dedicated his 25+-year legal career to fighting for clients in a variety of litigation matters.

Mike has successfully defended and prosecuted jury and bench trials involving business torts, fraud, consumer protection claims, trade secrets, covenants not to compete, and professional liability and insurance coverage. Many of his insurance matters have resulted in written decisions in federal court, with several cases being cited numerous times in briefs and rulings in courts across the nation.

COURT MEMBERSHIPS

- Missouri
- Kansas
- North Dakota
- U.S. District Court for the District of Colorado
- U.S. District Court for the District of Kansas
- U.S. District Court for the Eastern District of Michigan
- U.S. District Court for the Eastern District of Missouri
- U.S. District Court for the Western District of Missouri
- U.S. District Court for the District of North Dakota
- U.S. Court of Appeals for the Third Circuit
- U.S. Court of Appeals for the Fifth Circuit
- U.S. Court of Appeals for the Eighth Circuit
- U.S. Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit
- U.S. Court of Appeals for the Tenth Circuit
- U.S. Court of Federal Claims
- U.S. Tax Court

Mike is also a pioneer in recovering financial restitution for exonerated prisoners from the insurance carriers representing the public entities that wrongfully prosecuted and imprisoned them. He recently helped represent three Mississippi men who spent decades in prison for a rape and murder for which they were eventually exonerated. After pursuing law enforcement agencies and employees for their wrongful acts, Mike's team secured a \$16.5 million insurance settlement years after the prisoners' convictions. "This is the most meaningful work we do," he emphasizes. "Getting justice makes a huge difference for the exonerated and their families. And it makes police departments and communities better." Mike's civil rights insurance recovery work makes up about 20 percent of his practice.

With a deep commitment to advocating for justice and building strong communities, Mike also serves in leadership positions for several nonprofit organizations, including the Midwest Innocence Project, the Independent Citizen Advisory Board for Racial Profiling and Non-Biased Policing, and the Jewish Federation of Greater Kansas City.

Reported Decisions

- *Parks v. Wells Fargo Bank, N.A.*, 2017 WL 411362 (D. Kan. 2017)
- *Breck & Young Advisors, Inc. v. Lloyds of London Syndicate 2003*, 2017 WL 2179111 (10th Cir. 2017)
- *Travelers Indemnity Co. v. Forrest County*, 2006 F. Supp. 3d 2016 (S.D. Miss. 2016)
- *Hart v. Wells Fargo Home Mortgage, Inc.*, 2016 WL 5923429 (W.D. Mo. 2016)
- *IPFS v. Carrillo*, 2016 WL 2904773 (D. Nev. 2016)
- *Foliar Nutrients, Inc., et al. v. Nationwide Agribusiness Insurance Co.*, 133 F. Supp. 3d 1372 (M.D. Ga. 2015)
- *Hartford Fire Ins. Co. v. Vita Craft Corp.*, 911 F. Supp. 1164 (D. Kan. 2012)
- *Bank of America, NA v. UMB Financial Services, Inc.*, 618 F.3d 906 (2010)
- *Peak North Dakota, LLC v. Standing Bear Traders, LLC, et al.*, 2010 WL 2813508 (D.N.D. 2010)
- *Clay County Realty v. City of Gladstone*, 254 S.W.3d 859 (Mo. 2008)

EDUCATION

Emory University School of Law,
J.D., 1991

Brandeis University, B.A.,
Politics, *cum laude*, 1988

- *Safeco Ins. Co. of America v. Stephenson*, Slip Copy, 2008 WL 351006, W.D. Mo., February 6, 2008 (No. 06-4294-CV-C-NKL)
- *Maxus Realty Trust, Inc. v. RSUI Indem. Co.*, Slip Copy, 2007 WL 4468697, W.D. Mo., December 17, 2007 (No. 06-0750-CV-W-ODS)
- *Building Owners & Managers Ass'n of Greater Kansas City v. City of Kansas City*, 231 S.W.3D 208, 2007 WL 1672489, Mo. App. W. D., June 12, 2007 (No. WD 66618)
- *Safeco Ins. Co. of America v. Stephenson*, Slip Copy, 2007 WL 1558585, W.D. Mo., May 25, 2007 (No. 06-4294-CV-C-NKL)
- *First Specialty Ins. Corp. v. NAIS, Inc.*, 459 F. Supp. 2d 1094, 2006 WL 3059920, D. Kan. October 27, 2006 (No. 05-2399-JWL)
- *Star Ins. Co. v. Berry Ins. Agency*, Not Reported in F. Supp. 2d, 2006 WL 2460646, D. Kan., August 23, 2006 (Civil Action No. 01-21280-CM)

Events

- Webinar: Cyber Insurance - What You Don't Know Could Hurt You! March 8, 2018

Presentations

- Co-presenter, "Securing Insurance Coverage for Wrongful Conviction Lawsuits," Public Risk Management Association (PRIMA) Annual Conference, San Antonio, June 6, 2022
- Presenter, *How to Bring Excess Carriers to the Settlement Table*, Risk Insurance Management Society (RIMS) Annual Conference & Exhibition, Boston, 2019
- Speaker, *Insurance Recovery in the Wake of Superstorm Sandy*, National Law Journal Crisis Litigation Forum, May 2013
- Speaker, *Insurance Hot Topics: Practical Advice for Corporate Counsel*, January 14, 2009

Publications

- Author, *Review of Missouri Privacy Law*, Media Law Resource Center, 1995-2018
- Co-Author, *Review of 10th Circuit Libel, Defamation and Privacy Law*, Media Law Resource Center, 1994-2018

Client Alerts And Blog Posts

- Bringing Excess Insurance Carriers to the Settlement Table
September 24, 2019
- We're Not Afraid to Talk About Privilege
April 27, 2018
- Cyber Insurance – What You Don't Know COULD Hurt You!
March 20, 2018
- Employer Training on Release of Technology to Nonimmigrant Workers
February 24, 2011

In The News

- Attorney At Law Magazine Features Lathrop GPM Attorneys Support of \$12 Million Rock Island Bridge Project
June 15, 2023
- Kansas City Business Journal Features Successes of Lathrop GPM's Civil Rights Insurance Recovery Team
July 6, 2022
- KCUR 89.3: Unified Government to pay \$12.5 million to wrongfully imprisoned Kansas City, Kansas man
June 30, 2022
- KSHB 41 News: Lamonte McIntyre, wrongfully convicted man, to receive \$12.5M from Unified Government
June 30, 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
- Law360 Quotes Michael Abrams on Eighth Circuit Decision Blocking Trial Court From Hearing Gas Flaring Suits
August 6, 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

- Lathrop Gage Attorneys Take Top Spot in Missouri Lawyers Weekly Top Verdicts & Settlements 2018
February 4, 2019
- William Beck and Michael Abrams Featured in Missouri & Kansas Super Lawyers Magazine on Recovering Financial Restitution for the Wrongfully Convicted
December 17, 2018
- Michael Abrams Noted in Law360 Article on Texas Court of Appeals Ruling
November 27, 2018
- Benchmark Litigation: Four Lathrop Gage Attorneys Selected as Litigation Stars
November 23, 2015
- KCBJ: Four Lathrop Gage Attorneys Selected as Best of the Bar in 2015
September 25, 2015
- Firm Obtains Success for Bank of America in U.S. Court of Appeals for the Eighth Circuit
August 26, 2010

News Releases

- Lathrop GPM Attorneys Named 2023 Missouri & Kansas Super Lawyers and Rising Stars
December 11, 2023
- Lathrop GPM, Insurance Recovery Practice and Eight Attorneys Recognized by Benchmark Litigation
October 5, 2023
- Eight Lathrop GPM Attorneys Named Lawyer of the Year, 89 Ranked as The Best Lawyers in America®
August 17, 2023
- Lathrop GPM LLP Secures \$27.4 Million Trial Win for Client Maxus Metropolitan LLC
August 4, 2023
- Lathrop GPM LLP Attorneys Support First-of-its-Kind \$12 Million Rock Island Bridge Entertainment Project
June 14, 2023
- 14 Lathrop GPM LLP Practice Groups and 35 Attorneys Ranked in Chambers USA 2023
June 1, 2023

- Lathrop GPM Attorneys Named 2022 Missouri & Kansas Super Lawyers and Rising Stars
November 14, 2022
- Lathrop GPM, Insurance Recovery Practice, Labor & Employment Practice and Eight Attorneys Recognized by Benchmark Litigation
September 28, 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
- 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 Insurance Recovery Practice Receives National Benchmark Litigation Honors; Nine Attorneys Named Benchmark Litigation Stars
November 6, 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

- Seven Lathrop Gage Attorneys Named Benchmark Litigation Stars
October 8, 2019
- Best Lawyers in America 2020 Names 72 Lathrop Gage Attorneys;
13 Lawyers of the Year
August 15, 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
- National Law Journal Recognizes Michael Abrams as a 2018
"Litigation Trailblazer"
August 3, 2018
- Lathrop Gage Announces 2018 Executive Committee Members
July 23, 2018
- Super Lawyers Recognizes 57 Attorneys from Lathrop Gage in
Missouri and Kansas
November 9, 2017
- Benchmark Litigation Selects Four Lathrop Gage Attorneys as
Litigation Stars
October 16, 2017
- Best Lawyers in America Recognizes 78 Lathrop Gage Attorneys
August 15, 2017
- Super Lawyers Recognizes 71 Lathrop Gage Attorneys
October 14, 2013
- Lathrop Gage Announces Mark Bluhm as CEO
May 17, 2013
- 75 Lathrop Gage Attorneys Named Missouri & Kansas Super
Lawyers
October 15, 2012
- 54 Lathrop Gage Attorneys Named Missouri & Kansas Super
Lawyers
November 1, 2011
- 62 Lathrop Gage Attorneys Recognized by Super Lawyers
Magazine
October 13, 2010
- Benchmark Litigation Selects Five Lathrop Gage Attorneys as
Litigation Stars

August 26, 2010

- Firm Obtains Success on Constitutional Claim in Missouri Supreme Court

June 17, 2008

Professional Affiliations

- The Missouri Bar
- Kansas Bar Association

Community Involvement

- Independent Citizen Advisory Board for Racial Profiling and Non-Biased Policing, Board Member
- Jewish Federation of Greater Kansas City, Board Chair
- Midwest Innocence Project, Advisory Board
- Jewish Community Relations Bureau/American Jewish Committee, Past President
- Village Shalom, Past President
- Greater Kansas City Chamber of Commerce Centurions, 1999-2001
- U.S. Commission on Civil Rights, Kansas Advisory Committee, Past Member

Honors

- *Missouri Lawyer Weekly*, "Power 30 - Commercial & Consumer Law," 2020, 2023
- *Chambers USA: America's Leading Lawyers for Business*, Insurance, 2020-2023
- Named an "Influential Appellate Advocate" for one of the most significant appellate decisions of the year, Missouri Lawyers Media, 2020
- Selected among *The Best Lawyers in America*®, 2018-2024
 - "Lawyer of the Year," 2020-2021
- *Missouri & Kansas Super Lawyers*, 2008-2023
- *Missouri Lawyers Weekly*, "Top Defense Verdict of 2018," 2019 Missouri Lawyers Awards
- *National Law Journal*, "Litigation Trailblazer," 2018, 2019
- *Benchmark Litigation, the Guide to America's Leading Litigation Firms and Attorneys*, "Local Litigation Star," 2011, 2013,

2016-2018, 2020-2024

- Litigation Counsel of America, Fellow