



## William G. Beck

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### KANSAS CITY

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### Assistant

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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

- 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*, "Power 30 - 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